LIFE IS NOT SECRET. BUT IT IS PRIVATE? 61 HAVE NO DIVE BUT MYSELF TO BLAME FOR WHAT

PETER MANDELSON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS PAGE

This atrocity is still a mystery . to Nato. Perhaps I can help...



ROBERT

When you stand at the site of a massacre, two things happen. First, you wonder about the depths of the human spirit. And then you ask yourself how many lies can be told about it. The highway of death between Prizren and Djakovica – on which the Serbs say Nato slaughtered 74 Kosovo Albanian refugees in a series of bombing raids – is no different.

Only hours after I slipped on a dead man's torso near an old Turkish bridge, less than a day after I stood by the body of a young and beautiful girl - her eyes gently staring at me between half-closed lids, the bottom half of her head bathed in blood – I watched James Shea, Nato's spokesman, trying to explain yesterday why Nato still didn't know what had happened on Wednesday.

skeleton with one bloody, still flesh-adhering foot over the back of a trailer at Terezick Most, the dead, naked man slouched over the steering wheel of a burnt tractor - all, apparently, were a mystery to Nato. So perhaps The Independent can help clear up this unhappy state of affairs with some evidence damning perhaps, certainly

important - from the scene. But first a pause, to reflect on atrocities. The Serbs are "ethnically cleansing" Kosovo. It is a war crime. If Nato massacred the 74 Albanians, the Serbs have killed many more. On Thursday, I saw four buses in Kosovo packed with terrified Albanian women and children and old men, black curtains at the windows of the buses in an attempt to hide their presotherwise deserted town of Pozeranje, near Urosevac, I passed at least 200 pathetic Kosovo Albanians, exhausted, frightened, carrying plastic bags of clothes and battered holdalls, the old women in scarves, the young women clutching children to their bosoms, the old men wearing black berets; all

They were waiting for another bus, I suppose - and, not for the first time these past three weeks, I thought Europe just over half a century ago. At Pozeranje, I was seeing these poor people for a few seconds only, from a vehicle window - at the very moment of their dispossession, on the very day

gled bodies I had just seen - along the Serbian border 12 number of bomb and missile the old man ripped in half miles away It was a wicked- parts. At Gradis, I came and blasted into a tree at ness I saw, the very mo- across part of a missile cir-Gradis, the smouldering ment of evil When I drove cuit board, its congealed yesterday, it was empty save for four horses running lose on the main road.

> So why dwell on the 74 dead Kosovo Albanians whose remains have been left in such indignity along the Prizren-Djakovica road? Because the Serbs wanted us to see them? Because Nato was already embarrassed by the Serb claims of their slaughter? Because it "evens the balance" - it does not - between Serbia and its enemies?

No, I suspect that the road of death and its terrible corpses is a challenge not to Nato's propaganda but to its morality. Nato, we are repeatedly told, represents "us", the good moral, decent people who oppose lies and murder. So Nato has a ence. And at a square in the case to answer - for all our sakes. And the evidence lies on that awful road with its eviscerated people and its bomb craters.

Nato "thinks" it bombed a tractor on a road north of Djakovica. Indeed, Nato's military spokesman would aerial bomb. It is one-inch say yesterday only that is was "possibly" a tractor. Mr Shea - or "Jamie" as he enwere standing tightly to- joins us to call him - says he gether for protection, like is still trying to find out what happened to the 74 refugees. Nato needs more time, he tells us, to assess what it

bombed and did not bomb. Well perhaps I can help of other scenes, in Eastern Jamie to speed up his enquiries. Of the four air-strike locations, I have visited the first three - at Velika Krusa, Gradis and Terzick Most and they run consecutively from east to west along the Prizren-Djakovica road. At of their "cleansing", within the third, I came across four

All those torn and man- the flotsam of humanity some cases collected - a through Pozeranje again wiring attached to a plate which contains a manufacturer's code.

Yesterday's Independent carried some of this. But Nato will need the fullest possible information to trace this piece of ordnance quickly. The full code (the brackets are empty on the original) reads as follows:

> SCHEM 872110 () 96214ASSY8721122 -MSN 63341 (remaining figures obscured by detonation damage)

It shouldn't take Nato armaments experts more than a few hours to find out where that code came from - indeed what aircraft carried and fired that missile. Its pilot if it was a Nato bomb - will then be able to explain why

At Velika Krusa. I found the fusing of an aerial bomb next to a smashed trailer containing the belongings of 35 Albanian refugees, four of whom - all women - were killed in this air strike. I also have in my possession what may be a swivel system to an square, very damaged (Xs stand for the illegible parts) but carries the code: "X6214 - 837XNY".

At Gradis, I found a large bomb part, green in colour but with stencilled colour code in English, whose full code reads:

WING ASSEMBLY 96214ASSY 78-201872 872128 DATE OF MFG 3/78

Another similar bomb part contained the numbers: 96214ASSY

hours of their arrival among bomb craters. I saw - and in detonator contained a sec- and turn it over for a better

~ TER Co Inc

work out some of those codings within a few minutes. Another piece of a bomb had the single word "BENDIX" stamped on the metal. Other bomb and missile fragments contained moving fin assembly parts. Most of the shrapnel was so sharp it that it cut the hands of those who touched it. The corpses showed what bappened when the bomb parts shredded them alive. One of the bodies lying in a field at Terezicki Most - that of a man in his 40s - had the top of his head cut cleanly off. along with his brain and eyes so that his face had turned into an actor's mask. A middle-aged woman in a purple pullover and brightly flowered skirt with her eyes open and a pale waxen face, had had her neck cut open.

Now, maybe Nato will find that these bomb and missile assembly parts belonged to weapons sold to other governments. Perhaps they will be able to claim that a Balkan nation was given the aerial bomb whose wing assembly number is recorded above. In which case, maybe Nato will say that the Yugoslav air force - of which not a single aircraft has been seen in the air since the start of the Nato bombardment - carried out this massacre of Albanian refugees.

Certainly. Yugoslav army officers at the bomb sites photographers taking pictures of the larger pieces terest in the codings and seemed unable to understand my interest). And I saw At Gradis, too, part of one photographer drag a at Meja on the other side of what appeared to be a piece of bomb several metres

to believe that the Serbs had time to construct these ter-

At Gradis, there was evidence of strafing as well as watched the skies. From aerial bombing. Huge troughs had been cut into the earth, each two feet in length, separated by up to 10 feet and unevenly separated as if a drunken monster had lurched through the field and on to the road. These appeared identical to the cannon fire marks I found at the scene of American A-10 "Tankbuster" strikes in the 1991 Gulf War. But there cles. The only victims of were no burnt-out tanks on the Prizren-Djakovica road; only tractors and trailers and an old milk-yellow van and other body parts. A misturned inside out by the explosion which destroyed it.

Along miles of the same mad were other tractors, some scorched, most abandoned, apparently in panic, at the side of the road. The few Kosovo Albanians we found spoke of thousands on the road that day - 14 April - and it appears that they were moving in both directions. Survivors have said they came from the border, were moved to Djakovica and then told by Serb forces to move to Prizren. Most say they had no Serb escorts. I saw those awful buses with the black curtains moving in both directions near Prizren on Thursday. "Ethnic cleansmade no attempt to prevent ing" is not a precise art. Nor is fear. Undoubtedly some of the Kosovo Albanians on the though they showed no in- road were terrified of the aircraft which bombed them in four separate locations. The fourth attack took place

It wasn't difficult for me to

time available and the chaos road. While we were picking blood group certificate - Rhe- which Nato - after its attack on the road - Nato air raids our way through the corpses sus positive - for a woman on a passenger train last Again, Nato intelligence were going on within a mile of Terezicki Most, Nato named Rama Resmije, dated week - fears to tell us? Or did authorities should be able to of us as we examined the planes dropped bombs less 16 March 1993. bomb sites - it is impossible than a mile away - cluster bombs from the sound of them - and a series of massive explosions changed the

air pressure around us. We time to time, we could hear - but not see - Nato jets power-diving. Columns of dark smoke billowed over the bright green fields. But we found no military

wreckage. Not a smashed rifle, not a piece of armour. There was a lot of glass on parts of the road - not a commodity to find in large amounts on military vehithese air strikes appeared to be civilians. At Terezicki Most. I counted 13 corpses sile had rammed a tractor, setting fire to its trailer and incinerating all inside. In the Prizren hospital mortuary, six corpses lay on the concrete floor. There was a woman, breasts exposed, on the right, a delicate child close to her with a bloodied face. A piece of paper with the number "1" written on it had been pinned to the shroud half covering an unknown man. We had names for the rest: Fikrija Sulja, Imer Celja, Ferat Bajrami. Persad Sanfili and Nerdgivare Zecin. Along the road, there were

clothes and rags and broken cups and saucers beside the bomb sites and photograph alburns and family snapshots. I picked up photographs of a pretty young Kosovo Albanian woman with a lace blouse and curls and long black earrings, of a smiling four-year old boy in a T-shirt standing on a sofa behind a vase of sunflowers, of the boy's parents and two other brothers on the same sofa, of two old women

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

tion of manufacturer's name: photograph. But given the imagine the terror on that in Muslim scarves and of a some terrible error about

Did she live or die? Were the little boy and his parents and brothers torn apart in the air strikes on Wednesday? And what of the pretty woman in the earrings? If they survived, they deserve to know why their family and friends died. If they were killed, we deserve to know why. That these people were massacred in air strikes I do not doubt. I fear very much that they were slaughtered by Nato. If so, why? Was this truth.

some Nato pilots (and this massacre needed three or four planes) make an error and agree to cover it up? Or most awful of all – did a Nato pilot do something terrible, inexplicable, two days ago and then lie about it?

Nato, I suspect, can tell us. And those of us who walked among the innocent dead on the road from Prizren to Djakovica this week are waiting to hear Jamie tell the

GARNET POINT



From the edge of the New World, a new, dry, spicy full-bodied red.

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GP 'helped 300 die' Murder trial told that doctor admitted helping 300 patients to die

Trawler tragedy New inquiry into sinking of Goul 25 years ago Home P9

israel seals off village Last residents of south Lebanese village fled as Israeli troops moved in Foreign P15

Fear in East Timor Pro-Indonesian militia poured into the capital Foreign P16

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Tony Lloyd, Foreign Office minister

"The Serb military is now caught in a vice between the KLA and Nato forces"

Jamie Shea, Nato spokesman

"Stay here and leave your bones or run away ... the choice is yours"

> Nato leaflets dropped over Kosovo

i "I don't want to be a sparring partner to lying international thugs"

Ratko Mladic,

WAR IN THE BALKANS

The situation is alarming and, little by little, it is getting out of control" Milo Djukanoνiς, Bosnian Serb general | Montenegro's President

"To achieve resettlement, there will have to be ground troops" Borislav Skegro, Croatia's

Deputy Prime Minister

Alliance and Serbs step up aggression

THE RISKS TO THE REGION

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

DESPITE THE furore over who was to blame for the slaughter of civilians in southern Kosovo. Nato stepped up its bombing of Yugoslavia yesterday amid evidence that President Slobodan Milosevic has begun a merciless new push to drive ethnic Al-

banians from the province. In Brussels, alliance spokesmen threw little light on the circumstance of Thursday's carnage near Djakovica, saying Nato would accept responsibility only for an attack north of the town. They appeared to deny that allied planes had caused the slaughter on the road south of the town, in which the Serbs say 64 ethnic Albanians died, some of them liter-

ally blown to pieces. But as the doubt and confusion last night swirled over Djakovica, other things were crystal clear - that the war is escalating, that Kosovo's desperate humanitarian crisis is eepening further, and the risk of the conflict spreading into other countries is becoming ever more apparent.

According to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, a further 100,000 50,000 from the Gnjilane region in southern Kosovo. In addition. 5,000 people crossed over into Albania yesterday, as reports multiplied of Serb forces systematically emptying towns and villages of their populations and laying waste to the land.

If the figures are remotely accurate, it will mean that a third of the ethnic Albanian population have been driven from the province, apart from the unknown numbers still within it, caught between intensifying bombardment from the air and ethnic cleansing on

Among planners in Nato capitals the urgency is growing. In Washington, the Pentagon announced it was considering calling up 33,000 reservists, while George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, inched closer to sending Nato ground troops to drive the Serbs from Kosovo by force. Officially, such a move is not on the table, but Mr Robertson left the option open, saying that plans "must be kept under review"

Meanwhile, Nato is stepping up the aerial pounding. hitting a range of targets in and refugees are on the way to the around Belgrade yesterday, as

junior and sole remaining sister republic in the Yugoslav Federation. Allied warplanes had "one of the best nights yet", according to Jamie Shea. the Nato spokesman, claiming hits on tanks, MiG fighters. artillery and anti-aircraft

installations Nato officials insist that the allied hammering of Serb po-sitions, disrupting fuel supplies and communications, was helping the lightly armed Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas step up their marauding against Milosevic

In Montenegro, however, attacks on Yugoslav army and naval sites have only increased fears that the republic, relatively sympathetic to the West. could fall prey to a coup by Yugoslav army officers and pro-Belgrade politicians, which could unleash a civil war. Appealing for an immediate

end to the fighting. Milo Djukanovic, Montenegro's President, warned that the war was spinning out of control. Though he dismissed the idea of a coup as "not feasible", he spoke grimly of a wider Balkan conflagration: there A shattered truck near Prizren in Kosovo, where the Serbs claim Nato attacks killed 75 refugees north Albanian village of Ba-Kosovo fire and blood could en-

gulf not just Yugoslavia but the entire region". If civil war did break out in Montenegro. "it would be more tragic and worse than anything ... in this

As if to underline his warning, Serb and Albanian forces and Macedonia too. exchanged fire for five hours

jram Curri. Serb soldiers had removal from power can statried to cross the border, but bility return to south-eastern had been pushed back, an Al-Europe. Urging the opening of banian statement said. Anaa ground campaign, the Croatian Deputy Prime Minister, lysts fear a generalised war Borislav Skegro, declared that "keeping Milosevic in power does not solve anything" - a between Serbs and Albanians, sucking in Montenegro

Further afield in the Balkasentiment echoed by his Bul-

that only after Mr Milosevic's Alexander Bozhkov at a conference yesterday in London.

On the diplomatic front, movement has come to a virtual standstill. Mr Milosevic did meet the ethnic Albanian political leader, Ibrahim Rugova, yesterday. But the influence of Mr Rugova, who advocated a non-violent solution to the cri-

CONFLICT BRIEFING: DAY 24

efuge oke t ads a loody earan

More than 4,000 US marines and sallors boarded ships off the coast of North Carolina to head to the Balkans. ■ The Pentagon will ask President Clinton to activate as many as 33.000 reservists and National Guard troops Yemen has sent tents. blankets and funds to Muslims who have fled Kosovo to Albania. Spain is sending two more F-18 aircraft. Nato leaflets urging Yugoslav soldiers to defect or "leave their bones" in Kosovo are being dropped there. 4,000 refugees arrived in Brazde camp. British engineer troops erected 235 tents for them. 4,623 refugees entered Albania and 7,000 Macedonia in the last 24 hours. Nato will supply another 11,000 tents.

35 Nato relief flights arrive in Skopje in Macedonia every day. British troops continue to provide food, water. blankets and other 5,000 wind-up radios will be distributed in refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania. Since the conflict began, British troops

have distributed 264.000 litres of bottled water, 163,000 litres of milk. and 129,000 meals using 46,000 whole chickens. 129,000 loaves of bread 102,432 jars of baby food, 3 tons of cheese, 16,000 hard boiled eggs. ■ British troops have supplied a total of 20,000 baby bottles. 58,000 nappies, 35,000 toothbrushes, 58,000 items of female hygiene. ■ The Dutch government has contributed more ... than 40 million guilders (£12.25m) in velopment aid to Kosovo.

■ Russia's oppositiondominated State Duma (the lower house of parliament) voted by 293 to 54 to allow Yugoslavia to join the loose Russia-Belarus union in the latest show of solidarity between Moscow and its traditional ally.

Military chiefs block release of convoy film

NATO'S MILITARY comman- agreement of military chiefs inders are blocking internal calls vestigating the episode. the bombing raid which killed up to 75 ethnic Albanian

blame for the delay on its release on the US, arguing that its air force needed to agree to rerefugees, diplomatic sources lease the material. The Pentasaid yesterday, amid signs of new tension over the handling gon is sensitive about the attack because its pilot and air crew were responsible.

of the episode. A diplomat said Jamie Shea. the alliance's chief spokesman, wanted the tape - recorded by a camera on the F-16 attack aircraft - placed in the public domain but had failed to win the

The dispute came amid con-

tinuing confusion as to which column the Nato plane attacked on Wednesday and where the attack was. On TENSION IN NATO

Thursday, Nato admitted it attacked a column that it took to be a military convoy before hitting another three vehicles in a nearby compound. It is believed these attacks were north of the Kosovo town of Djakovica, near the village of Meja. Nato also said it attacked a military convoy on a bridge near the village of Zrze, south of

Djakovica. At a Nato briefing in Brussels, Mr Shea said Nato only accepted blame for one incident, adding that admission of one mistake did mean every incident should "be laid at Nato's feet." He also dismissed new claims by Belgrade that in a separate incident Nato had struck a refugee centre in the Serbian town of Paracin

BRITAIN TODAY

overnight. But Nato is finding it difficult to explain the pictures on Serb television - apparently taken near Zrze - of mangled bodies and farm machinery.

Against this backdrop, the outcome of the battle over whether or not to release the video footage of the attack could prove crucial. Although the images could be damaging

LIGHTING UP

8 30pm 8 09pm 8 09pm 8 27pm 8 00pm 8 13pm 8 14pm

HIGH TIDES

AIR QUALITY
Today's readings

London
S England
Wales
C England
N England
Scotland
N Ireland

6.04ar 6.10ar

6 06am 6 00am 6 04am 5 57am

would not have allowed it to be known that the pilot dispatched a laser-guided bomb". The formal investigation into the bombing of the column- in

to public opinion. Nato's failure 75 civilians died - is being to be seen to come clean could carried out at the Supreme Europe, which is resisting release of the video "It's a military decision – it's

their decision what they do with it", said a source.

"They want to be careful that they don't give out any information that turns out not to be true before the investigation is completed and they want a complete and thorough

nbushed **e** badlar

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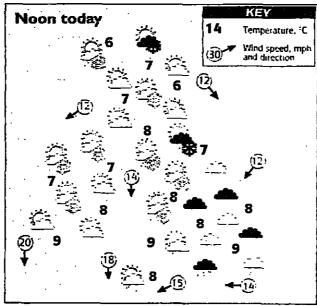
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FORECAST General situation: Eastern England and the Midlands will be rather cloudy with showery rain breaking due, same of it heavy with perhaps some sleet for the hills. Males and western England will be brighter but it will be another cold day with occasional wintry showers. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have more in the way of sunshine, but it will stay cold and showers will break out across the Southern Uplands and across the for north, many of sleet and show. The showers will rend to become more audespread this afternoon.

London, SE & Cent S England, Channel Is, E Anglia, Midlands: The old sunny spell at first but becoming increasingly cloudy with she wery ruin breaking out, particularly in the east. A light easterly wind, May temp 3-100 (46-506) NW England, Lake Ofst, Isle of Mant Sunny spells, but wintry showers in the far north becoming widespread. A light northerly wind. Max temp 6-90 (43-49F) SW England, Wales: Cold with showers developing but also some good sunny spells. A moderate north to north-east wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F) E England, Cent N & NE England: Occasional summy breaks but generally cloudy with outbreaks of rain and sleet with show on hills. A light north-easter wind, Mar temp 6-8C (43-46F)

SIM & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgour. Cold but mainly dry and sunny before cloud and mining showers to the south become more videspread later. A light north-east wind. Mar temp 6-8C (43-46F) NW & NE Scotland, Aberdeen, N & W Isles: Frosty but bright at hist. Some sunshine wantry showers breaking out by afternoon. A freshering 5-TC (41-45F)

N Ireland: Another cold day with a mix of sunny spells and wintry showers. A light north-east wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F)

OUTLOOK Eastern England will keep a lot of cloud with further outbreaks of rain tomorro and this may turn heavy at times in the south-east. Elsewhere, there will be a moutine of sunshine and showers, some of the showers wintry, especially over the hills. Monday will stay unsettled and rather cold for April.

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leyfonstone, Major rounwirks on new M11 link road, Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J18-19, Major Readworks on Avormouth Bridge, Until 23rd June 2001 Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tomworth services and J9 Sutin Codfeel: Rockworks and contration, Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vaduat (A6109) 8, J34 Tinsley Vaduat (A6178), Sheffield, Camageway a reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000.

Chektenham. Closed due to roadmorks inbound Diversions in place Until 1st June. Co.Antrim: A1 Kingsway, Durimurray, Roadworks, various lane restrictions, Until Bypass (A50) and Shardian Road round-about East of Alvasion Contration for work

on new A50 Until 15th October AA Roadwatch: Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news

YESTERDAY EXTRÉMES

Nato diplomats said there

was no cover up by Mr Shea:

"He wants its release as much

as the media does. If they

[Nato] had wanted to hide the

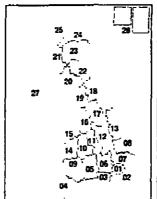
existence of the tape, they

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· 3	Cromer	10.2	18
9	Edinburgh	4.6	0.3
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7	Letwick	7.2	10

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 06 02 Sun sets: 20 00 Moon rises: 07 12 Moon sets: 21 47

WEATHERLINE For the tarest ferese to dul **0891 5009** followed by the two dryns for your area Sounce The Mer Office Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)



which the Serbs claim at least

Barbourne 11C (52F) Coldest (day): Bingley 40 (39F) Wettest: Waddington 1 06 mm Sunniest: Sidmouth 11.5 hrs For 24hrs to 2pm Friday

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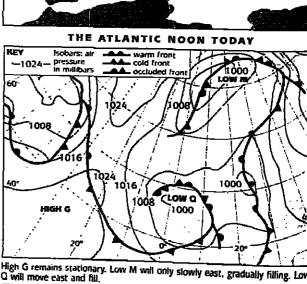
4.4 6.9 24 hours to 6pm (GMT) Thursday Information by PA WeatherCentre

Rain or SHINE...

FIRE CREWS from Avon Fire Brigade scrambled fearing the worst yesterday after they spotted a huge plume of "smoke" rising from the Avonmouth area near Bristol.

But instead of arriving at the scene of a major blaze, firefighters were greeted by an unusually shaped rain cloud, extending upwards from ground level. A fire brigade spokesman later blamed the embarrassing call-out on "recent odd weather conditions".





High G remains stationary. Low M will only slowly east, gradually filling. Low Q will move east and fill. THE WORLD YESTERDAY

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To achieve resettlement there will have to be

Stound troops

Borislav Skegro, Croate's Deputy Prime Ministe Refugees CONFLIC Choke the DAVIA roads as bloody clearance resumes

ETHNIC CLEANSING

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Skopie, Macedonia

to the buses but, for the unshaven man in the jeans and black coat, it was 50 yards too far. The volunteer doctors kept saying, "He's all right, he's all right," but it was obvious that he wasn't. After three days and three nights living rough, in abandoned houses or in the open, his will gave up, and he collapsed in front of the barbed Kosovo and Macedonia.

had a heart condition. His wife army, police and paramilitaries. and his four little children seemed to know that this was serious, and cried hopelessly as he was driven away in an ambulance. They were beyond Kris Janowski, a spokesman for speech or consolation; we never even learned his name.

The scene at the border crossing of Jazhince was not Compared to the situation earlier this month at nearby Blace. van 30,000 people wallowed haplessly in a muddy field for three days, it was calm and orderly. The Macedonian border guards still yell at the cowed or punch, and the registration procedure runs smoothly if

refugees, including the seri-

IT WAS no more than 50 yards ven out of Kosovo yesterday as the second wave of ethnic cleansing by the Serb authorities reached a new climax.

By yesterday afternoon, Kosovo during the previous 24 hours, crossing into Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro, and the number was expected to increase today. The refugees, some of them clearly desperate, wire on the very threshold of told stories of beatings, extortion, artillery bombardment One of the doctors said he and murders by the Serbian

"The expulsions which were put on hold or slowed down over the last two weeks have now rethe United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), speaking in Geneva. the worst Macedonia has seen, thorities to expel the entire ethnic population of Kosovo is

ficials said that 100,000 people

total of 12,000 people had left

sumed with full force," said "The effort by the Serb auagain under way." UNHCR of-

were already on the move towards Macedonia. At the Jazhince border crossing near the Macedonian refugees, but they do not kick town of Tetovo, 700 refugees waited on the Kosovo side of the border yesterday morning, hav-ing spent the night huddling in Thousands more Albanian a ramshackie convoy of tractors and cars. Several elderly peo-

small group of volunteer doctors from the International

Medical Corps. The police asked for money from us when we passed a checkpoint," said Fehmi Bllaca. head of Cernice village near the southern Kosovo town of Gjilane. "They stopped each tractor and said. Either pay 100 Deutchmarks or we kill one person.' So we all had to pay, or There are more people who are sure that the Serbs will force all the population out."

where they reported widespread burning of houses had to come down." owned by ethnic Albanians. and rumours of the mass killing of 29 people in Kacanik last

One man, who had been sleeping in the open for three days with his family, displayed a pus-filled wound on his back where he said he had been hand over gold or jewellery. struck by shrapnel from a Serb mortar which was fired into the

> "The Serbs are gun-crazy," said a man named Bejt

bombardment. That's why we

For some this was the dilemma - either to remain in the hills, getting sicker and hungrier, or to take their chances with the Serb guards at the

But many people were given no choice. "We can't know for sure exactly what is going on over there, but it's clear that it systematic," said Henric Security and Co-operation in

village by village, and clearing people out of the entire area."

"A couple of months ago it would have seemed unbelievable to the civilised world that the Serbs would actually expel the entire civilian population," said Mr Janowski of the UNHCR. "But this seems to be reality now."

The political crisis which the refugees have created inside Macedonia remained unresolved, with the number of those being evacuated to third Europe (OSCE), which is mon-countries. Yugoslavia's treatitoring the situation in Kosovo. ment of the Kosovars has out-

the Skopje government is anxious about the destabilising effect the refugees could have on its own country's delicate ethnic balance.

Macedonia wants foreign governments to share the refugee burden, and there was concern yesterday that it might resort forcibly to expelling the refugees. But western European governments say that evacuating the refugees from tifying the Serbs' ethnic cleans-

ing policy. In the last three

new arrivals have been airliftmany, Turkey and Greece. The chances are high that at least that number will arrive in Macedonia tomorrow alone.

Leif Windmar, an OSCE observer, who spoke to refugees in Blace yesterday, said: "It seems as if people were pushed out of their homes this morn-

In Geneva. the UNHCR said that Yugoslav authorities had driving all those who remained of the 1.8 million ethnic Alba-



"The Serbs are going through, ground, being tended to by a Blace by train from the towns ened - even the children raged Macedonia's own miof Urosevac and Kacanik, couldn't sleep because of the nority Albanian population, and ed out, most of them to Ger-

Ambushed at gunpoint in the badlands of Albania

AS WE rounded a corner, the headlights picked out a white Mercedes estate slung across the road. Our hearts sank. For a split second we hoped against hope it was an innocent breakwn. Then the burst of automatic gunfire told us otherwise.

It confirmed that this was inthe targets - or rather, our two four-wheel drive cars, computers, television and photographic gear, satellite phones all the paraphernalia of modern journalism in remote and dangerous places.

Someone yanked open the car door - a black balaclavaed face peered in, shouting. Another burst of fire over our heads and the bandit - dressed in German camouflage and armed with an AK-47 - pulled us out and grabbed at our pockets. We didn't need to speak Albanian to understand that sture and handed over a wad To cash (simply a sweetener, since we had far more money, passports, credit and press cards stashed about our persons) and a couple of wallets.

The bandits – we think there were probably four or five in total, though I only saw the one - pushed us towards the verge and we scrambled into the brambles, ducking in case they after an Albanian patriot who



IN BAJRAM CURRI, ALBANIA

opened fire. Our "armed police escort", as they are known technically, who was paid to travel in our car, did not lift a finger, let alone a safety catch. Our man stood aimlessly by the roadside, watching, his Kalashnikov cradled safely. He made a vague gesture towards the bandit, who simply pushed him back. The robbery was over within five minutes and, as the three cars roared into the distance, we trudged back towards Bajram Curri, perhaps

The robbers' haul must have topped £150,000 - if they can fence all the technical equipment, that is; this on top of the TV cameras stolen from the BBC and Turkish television on the same road in the previous 48 hours. Bajram Curri, named

stands alone as the capital of the "badlands" of northern Al-

There are some modest. well-behaved pockets in the lawless north, such as the town of Kukes, the temporary refuge for 300,000 Kosovars expelled at gunpoint. Even in Bajram Curri, with its broad main street and peeling apartment buildings, ordinary people try to get by, unarmed. But not many of them.

Journalists dispatched to

the area must take very specific precautions. First, find a gun for hire - there are plenty hanging around the lobby - and pay him to protect you. Second, try to persuade your new friend to use the safety catch and to point the Kalashnikov in the opposite direction. Third, leave your car in the one semi-secure car park in the centre of town especially if it is a four-wheel drive vehicle, needed for the hideous mud tracks that pass for roads in northern Albania.

Other foreigners here mostly monitors from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union - travel with police or army escorts. Not that this necessarily helps. Three days ago, an OSCE Land Rover travelling to Tirana and

car, was held up by three gunmen who did not even bother to w**ear masks. They drove off** in the OSCE vehicle and a Mercedes, while the policemen watched.

Brand-new AK-17s, still greased up, were available for £3 in Tropoje, a satellite of Bajram Curri, which held a semipermanent car-boot sale in the muddy village square. But one them all has since left town. moving his family to the coast for a better life - perhaps for any life, since Bajram Curri is even more damaging to the health of Albanians than to the wallets of foreigners.

Fatmir Hakraj was the chief of police in Bajram Curri until the day his brother was ambushed and killed - nine bullet wounds to his body.

Mr Hakraj returned to the station, handed in his notice and then, as he was descending the stairs, saw another police officer suspected of involvement in the murder. He shot him and walked out.

Then, the story goes, Mr Hakraj shot dead eight others one for each bullet hole; and rejoined the force, "He's regarded as a man of honour for malaga from £120

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Donations buy vital supplies

of The Independent is continuing to pour in to help the refugees of Kosovo. More than £550,000 has already been raised since the appeal was launched a fortnight ago.

"We are delighted that the money is still coming in," said a spokesman for the Disasters Emergency Committee, coordinating a series of appeals for the refugees of Kosovo, including that of The Indepen-

The money is being used to airlifted to countries in the

MONEY DONATED by readers pay for food, blankets, first-aid, emergency shelters, sanitation and water purification equip-More than 500,000 Kosovar

Albanian refugees have fled their homes as a result of Serb ethnic cleansing. Tens of thousands are being temporarily housed in massive refugee camps in and around the Macedonian capital, Skopje. Hundreds of thousands have fled to Albania while Lousands of others have been

West including Turkey, Norway and Sweden. The second republic of Yugoslavia, Montenegro, has also seen thousands of refugees cross its borders.

But in the past few days tens of thousands more refugees are thought to have been attempting to leave Kosovo. Aid agencies and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees are bracing themselves for the arrival of thousands more refugees in

Macedonia and Albania.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION Send a cheque or postal order to:

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Air raids test Montenegro's neutrality

SERBIA'S NEIGHBOUR

BY PAUL WELSH in Podgorica

IN THE centre of the anti-Nato rally, they didn't hear the jets fly overhead or the sound of explosions in the distance. Thousands had turned out to demonstrate against the continuing attacks on Yugoslavia. There had not been a strike on stronger partner in the Yugoslav Federation. Montenegro for over a week.

In the hours after the attack. Air-raid sirens didn't sound, but the Nato planes could be seen clearly in the skies over Podgorica. Sources close to the government say 17 bombs and missiles were fired on Montenegro on Thursday night, and that one man was killed at the military airport outside the Montenegrin capital. A military airport near the town of Tuzu was also hit, as were air-defence systems on the outskirts of Podgorica and in Ljubovic. In the port of Bar, the Yu-

goslav navy opened fire on Nato aircraft for the third day running. People in the port say the sky was lit up by the gunfire, all outgoing, and it was reminiscent of the Second World War. The Montenegro

government accuses the Yu- people being killed, and the goslav forces of deliberately drawing Nato fire to the port, to force Montenegro into the war. At the moment, the republic is staying neutral, refusing to support Serbia, its bigger,

the president, Milo Djukanovic, appealed again for an end to what he called the brutal Nato bombardment of Yugoslavia. He said the bombing was endangering his republic's slow move towards independence from Yugoslavia and towards democracy. "Every day that passes drags us further and further away from the goal: peace in the country and the return to a way of life which will be in tune with the world surrounding us. We appeal for additionefforts to ensure a resumption of the negotiating

process on Kosovo. The President said the consequences of the Nato bombing were horrific, with innocent correspondent

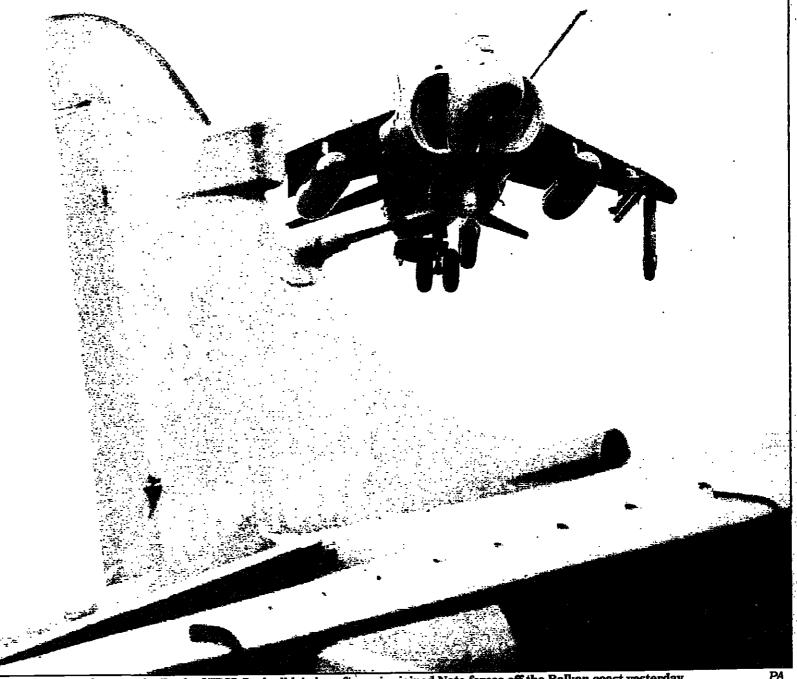
DXONS

The UK's first

distinction between civilian and military targets being harder to make. The air defence system at Ljubovic, which was attacked on Thursday, had been placed beside a major reservoir that supplies one-third of Montenegro. There are worries it will be

damaged in future attacks. Slobodan Milosevic has also been criticised. The Yugoslav President is accused of "using other people's lives to show defiance" with his stand against Nato, and of trying to take political control in Montenegro.

"Peace in Montenegro has been put to its gravest test for half a century," said President Djukanovic. He believes there is a real danger the Kosovo crisis will engulf the entire region, and that attempts to end moves towards democracy in Montenegro will not end until Mr Milosevic is out of office. "I hope it will not be much longer." he said.



An FA2 Sea Harrier over the Deck of HMS 'Invincible' aircraft carrier joined Nato forces off the Balkan coast yesterday

erbian nd bric Old passenger jets are heavy

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IN THE SKIES

BY SHIULIE GHOSH

filling stations of war

"PESO FOUR-SIX, you're cleared for take-off." The tinny voice from the control tower at Ancona air base in Italy was relayed to the crew of the RAF Tristar waiting on the runway.

Four men and one woman. they are members of 216 RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. This day, they were one of two teams tasked by Nato for a refuelling mission high above the Adriatic. The lead aircraft had the call sign Peso fourseven. Another Tristar, it took

off five minutes before us. Tanker crews are the unsung heroes of the Balkan conflict. British tankers are either Tristars or VC10s - both former commercial passenger planes which have been stripped down and adapted for air-to-air

refuelling. The one we were aboard had been flown by British Airways. Now it provides the lifeblood of Nato tighters. Without the tankers, sorties would be shorter, less effective and more dangerous.

As Peso four-six thundered down the runway. Amy, the loadmaster, told me we were carrying 105 tonnes of fuel enough to run 77 family cars for a vear. Our two tankers reached the target area after an hour's

Within 20 minutes we had our first "trade". Skimming like a bullet over the clouds and glinting in the sunlight, an American F-14 Tomcat appeared on our starboard side. It slowed until its pace matched ours. As I watched through the cockpit window, I saw the pilot turn and stare at us from less then 30 yards away.

He and his navigator were most likely from the US carrier Theodore Roosevelt, flying combat air patrol to protect the

A tanker crew's view as a Nato fighter links up for

battle group. On his tailfin, an ace of spades was painted. Then he was gone, chasing the refuelling hose trailing from the back of the tanker.

During refuelling, the fighter pilot has to feed his nose probe into a cone-shaped basket just 2ft in diameter at the end of the hose. To me, it looked like someone trying to thread a needle at 300mph.

But with the calm guidance of John, the engineer on board the Tristar, and the help of an on-board camera which allows the crew to see how the operation is going, the connection was made smoothly. Fuel flooded down the hose at a rate of a tonne a minute.

As the day wore on, the Tristars dealt with F-14s and F-18 Hornets, all bristling with weapons and exchanging casual banter with the tanker crews. All used call signs which are changed regularly to mislead any enemy ears which may be listening.

The whole operation is controlled by Awacs, the airborne command centre which also monitors potential threats in the area. And there are plenty

of those. No one can doubt the courage of the tanker crews. Their job often takes them perilously close to dangerous territory, within range of SAM missiles and enemy aircraft.

Yet they carry no weapons or radar alert systems. As the the first sign of trouble their best bet would be to turn

around and fly away. Just how close they come to danger was brought home to us after nearly seven hours of flight. Night had fallen, and below us we could see lights suggesting we were near land. Our exact position could not be revealed for operational security reasons, but it became clear that Kosovo wasn't far

As we looked out into the darkness, the horizon was suddenly lit up with the bright staccato flashes of bomb blasts. They were unmistakable. The very planes which had taken fuel from us were now completing their missions - perhaps over Pristina, perhaps over

Circling high in the Balkan skies, the soundless explosions we were watching had an un-

real quality. It was after midnight when Peso four-six and Peso fourseven finally touched down again in Ancona. We had been flying for nine hours, and carried out 11 refuellings. Sometimes there are fewer,

often there are more. The crew describe occasions when jets are stacked across the sky, waiting for their turn to feed at the hose. With the stepping up of the

Nato campaign, there will surely be a lot more "trade" for the tankers.

Shiulie Ghosh is an ITN cor-

THE BALKAN QUESTION

Why does the West keep going on about Kosovo's 'autonomy" rather than independence?

Kosovo never enjoyed the status of a republic in Tito's Yugoslavia, a privilege that was reserved for the Slavs. Instead they were given the uncomfortable and imprecise status of an "autonomous province" inside Serbia. In practice, Kosovo ruled itself without much reference to Serbia from the 1960s until Milosevic came to power and scrapped its autonomy in 1989. The allies have decided that this supposed golden age of autonomy is what they

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

tice, they worry that nothing could stop a truly independent Kosovo from reuniting with Albania. Goodbye Greater Serbia, hello Greater Albania. The fear is that this enlarged state would then demand the western, mainly Albanian, slice of Macedonia, starting a new Balkan war where the old one left off.

Are the Kosovars Muslim fanatics?

Most Kosovars are Muslim. though a small and ancient Catholic community is censhould aim to restore. In practired on the city of Prizren.

But unlike the 1992 to 1995 war in Bosnia, there is no sign of a religious dimension emerging in the Kosovo conflict. The Serbs may go on about being Christian and Orthodox but the Albanians are uninterested in posing as Islamic martyrs. Religion for them is really a rural affair and is little more more than a matter of convention and tradition. No wonder then that the Islamic countries are far less involved in Kosovo than they were in Bosnia and there is no sign of foreign mujahedeen turning up to fight in Kosovo as they did in

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THE INDUITABLE TO SERVED

Pentagon wants extra 30,000 troops

THE PENTAGON is preparing to closure of the size of the emerask President Clinton for authority to call up more than 30,000 reservists to augment the Nato operation in Kosovo. It would be the biggest mobilisation of reservists since the Gulf War eight years ago, and on a par with the 34,000 called up for Vietnam. Approval could be granted over the weekend.

The unattributed statements from the Pentagon, designed to soften public opinion ahead of a formal announcement, followed on the heels of a dis-

gency budget allocation that Bill Clinton is requesting from Congress. Unconfirmed, but very detailed, reports said that the White House had asked for an initial sum of \$5.9bn (£3.7bn) substantially higher than the \$4bn (£2.5bn) upper estimate of how much the war has cost the

The flurry of reports, broadcast on television overnight and in US newspapers yesterday, combined to bring home to

US so far.

mounting cost of the conflict in Kosovo - in terms of money and in manpower.

Pentagon officials indicated tional Guard, units trained to fly air-refuelling missions from the US and Europe. Some army reservists could also be called up for ground functions, including the servicing of the two dozen Apache helicopters expected in Tirana soon.

The Defense Secretary, Americans for the first time the William Cohen, was said to be **US STRATEGY** By MARY DEJEVSKY

that most of the reservists are still finalising the numbers of to herald a major escalation of likely to come from the Air Na- reservists required, but a ceil- the Nato operation, including ing of 33,000 was mentioned, with as many as 23,000 being summoned for immediate active duty.

Several thousand have volunteered to serve in the Balkans, and are already there. The additional call-up, which is combined with the dispatch of another 300 US planes, is expected comparisons between the grad-

round-the-clock bombing. The US currently has more than 400 planes in the region.

By Gulf War standards, however, the call-up is still relatively modest: more than 200,000 reservists were called up then. Critics of US policy from the right have made unfavourable

eration and the all-out assault launched by allied forces gainst Iraq in 1991. Military analysts respond, however, by distinguishing between the occupation of Kuwait, which was already a fact, and the situation in Kosovo.

The President has the power to authorise the call-up of up to 200,000 reservists or National Guard troops for as long as 270 days. The cost of the call-up is one element in the \$5.9bn emergency funding request made to

Pentagon, and \$500,000 partment and the US Agency for International Development (Usaid), which is co-ordinating the American aid effort for refugees. Some of the money would also be allocated to the so-called "frontline" states like Macedonia and Albania, which

Earlier this week, Pentagon

200 miles

have borne the brunt of the

refugee crisis.

HUNGARY

key members of Congress late sources indicated that the US on Thursday. That sum in- contribution to the Nato opercludes \$5.45bn (£3.4bn) for the ation was costing \$1bn a week. but this could increase rapidly (£313,000) for the State De- if air operations are intensified, as apparently envisaged.

> If, as the Defense Secretary suggested on Thursday, the conflict could drag on into the summer, the US could be contemplating a bill above £20bn (£12.5bn), At this level, the cost of the war would start to eat a significant hole in the projected budget surplus for the



Serbian airbase and bridge hit in heavy attacks

THE MISSIONS

bombing refugees behind it. the alliance had what it called in our campaign" on Thursday and early yesterday.

hit an extensive list of Yugoslavia's air defence, fuel and ground targets, and commanders and spokesmen were keen from hand-held missiles to provide unusually full details of the previous day's operations craft, however, returned safely - which included RAF Harriers to their bases. flying 18 sorties.

Chief of the Defence Staff, told a briefing in London that bridges, communication tarhad all been successfully attacked. "Two MiG-21 aircraft. E3-Awacs aircraft. Liree tanks, six artillery posi-

against the airbase at Podgorica [in Montenegro], from "one of the best nights thus far which we believe Serb aircraft had been flying over Albania."

Allied pilots encountered a Under clear skies, bombers lot of anti-aircraft activity from artillery, and from a number of missiles launched at them both from mobile SAM systems and launched by Serb troops. All air-

The Harriers carried out General Sir Charles Guthrie, successful attacks against artillery and anti-aircraft sites and against command and control facilities in Pristina, the gets, the airfield at Nis and a Kosovan capital. General Guth-SA-6 anti-aircraft missile site rie also outlined sorties flown by RAF Tristar tankers and

At the Nato briefing in Brus-

Nato's bombers. Clearly keen to destroyed," he said. "There Nato's spokesman, Jamie Shea, the southern district of away, alliance officials said. put the disaster of accidentally was also a successful attack said the alliance would not be Rakovica was hit for the second "blown off course" by the bombing tragedy. "As we say in football; we are keeping our eyes on the ball," he said.

Footage was shown of a laser-guided bomb attack on a MiG-21 at Pristina airfield and missile attacks on a radar installation and a SA-6 site.

We are shaping the environment with air power where we will soon be able to grind the Yugoslav army and special police forces into pieces," said

Mr Shea. In Montenegro, alliance warplanes struck at an underground military base and targeted a port where Yugoslav navy ships were anchored, according to local media reports. Witnesses said the Yugoslav navy launched mis-

consecutive night. Across the Danube, the country's largest refinery complex at Pancevo was hit three times - once at the oil refinery and twice at a chemical plant, according to Tanjug the official Yugoslav news agency. It reported that 17 peo-

ple were injured.

Strikes at either end destroyed the Smederevo bridge over the Danube, 25 miles south-east of the capital. Nato missiles also hit the refinery in Serbia's second-largest city. Novi Sad, setting it ablaze, Tanjug reported. But Nato denied a Yugoslav report that alliance missiles had struck a refugee centre in the Serbian town of Paracin. Nato aircraft had struck an ammunition dump in the vicinity of Paracin and a

्रकृतिहरू Nato strikes Thursday and yesterday HUNGARY Aviano Nato reports of recent Serb atrocits ROMANIA YUGOSLAVIA ROMANIA KOSOVO BULGARIA MACEDONIA BOSNIA 1000 Kosova BULGARIA Albanians Filled by Serb Forces in MONTENEGRO Serb forces ful 47 Kosovar Adriatic

IT WAS BUSINESS as usual for tions and six bunkers were sels, the message was robust. siles at Nato jets. In Belgrade. radio relay station 20 miles miles from Hungary. The city's had been "significant" dam-

targets near the Hungarian border. Four explosions were reported in the northern Serbian town of Subotica, just eight

in a densely populated area, damaging civilian houses and

knocking out power. Tanjug reported that there diately report any casualties.

mayor said that two missiles age in civilian areas when more For the first time. Nato hit exploded between two barracks than 10 missiles fell on the village of Mrsac, six miles west of the central Serbian town of

Timetable: DAYS 23, 24

Thursday 15 April

11.30pm: Tanjug news agency says Nato earlier

attacked the oil refinery in Serbia's Novi Sad for the fourth time. Friday 16 April 1.20am: Tanjug reports a refugee centre has

been hit by Nato missiles in the Serbian town of Paracin. 7.00am: Albanian and Serb forces start an exchange of fire near Bajram Curri. The exchange goes on for five hours after Serbs target the

station at Zherke and try to enter Albanian territory 10.00am: Heavy shelling heard in the Tropoje area of Albania.

northern border

close to the Yugoslav frontier. 10.30am: Kosovo ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova meets Serbian President Milan Milutinovic and Yugoslav

Deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic in Belgrade. 1.00pm: Nato says the alliance hoped to clarify confusion over attacks on Kosovo road

killed 1.45pm: Yugoslav military claims it has shot down a Nato plane in action over Montenegro.

convoys in which civilians may have been

Planners study Tito as they hunt for hidden weapons

NATO'S MOST experienced planners are poring over US army textbooks written in the Sixties which analyse Marshal Tito's tactics against occupying Nazi troops during the Second - World War.

bodan Milosevic's resolve, or the Serbian ruler of Yugoslavia is using the tactics his predecessor employed so suc-Tito's partisans used the classic guerrilla warfare methods of hit and run, avoiding large scale engagements, and hiding troops and artillery in forests.

Nato, haunting echoes in the current conflict. The much vaunted degrading of Serb forces has been been made forces has been been made strangenorward stand-up ngnt. They'll always be looking to do something that shifts the ground, in any way."

After seeing off Hitler, one of difficult by the fact that President Milosevic's tanks and heavy guns are well hidden and thus cannot be hit. While late has destroyed around half of Serbia's MiG 29s most of the rest have disappeared.

The strategy used by President Milosevic and his high of command is straight out of the Tito manual - hang on in the never meet the enemy on his own terms; decentralise and disperse and live to fight other day.

LESSONS OF HISTORY By Kim Sengupta

prised by the lack of opposition

from Yugoslavia's integrated air defence system. By staying under cover, however, it has The Western leaders broke

by the West has not broken Slo- a cardinal rule of warfare by revealing that there were no immediate plans for a ground war. So President Milosevic was safe to unleash his ferocious campaign in Kosovo. "cleansing" the area of much of its Albanian population.

James Gow, a Yugoslav military specialist at the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington, said: "It's a kind of ducking and Although the land war is yet diving. You can't have a to start in Kosovo, there are, for straightforward stand-up fight.

> Tito's main preoccupations was not to be swallowed up by Stalin. The Yugoslav army's All People's Defence Strategy, seen as a "system of total defence", foresaw command and control being devolved to the regions, and active involvement of the civilian population. In the event of an invasion by Soviet and Warsaw Pact armies, militias would play a full part in the fighting.

For this policy to succeed, Marshal Tito and his advisers knew they would have to rely on the loyalty and fortitude of the Allied pilots have been sur- civilian population. The Serb



used by Milosevic's army

psyche has always been one of the underdog, unifying against an outside enemy. Reports from Belgrade suggest that the population is uniting behind the Milosevic regime in the face of the Nato pounding.

Anton Bebler, a former Yugoslav navy officer and analyst now living in Slovenia, says that elements of Tito's ground war plans have been retained by the present regime and are likely to be put into practice if the alliance decide on a land incursion.

There is, however, a crucial difference which will work to the advantage of the West. The professional officer corps has been hit by purges by Milosevic and the army is not the same as the one which was prepared to fight and die for Marshal Tito, so- perhaps have done?"

cialism and an united Yugoslavia. Morale has been sapped by the humiliating defeats inflicted in Slovenia in 1991 and Croatia four years later, and

by poor leadership and low pay. In October President Milosevic replaced the head of the state security service with a crony from the police force. In November he fired Momcilo Perisic, the experienced chief of staff who had complained that his soldiers were being used to wage war on civilians in Bosnia and Croatia.

Mr Bebler says president Milosevic may be in full control of the armed forces, but at the cost of a less effective force.

Not all those in the army have the appetite for the type of grisly work Milosevic need ed in Bosnia and now Kosovo. He has relied on the 80,000strong internal police force (MUP) and paramilitaries. Robert Emerson, a security

analyst who has studied the conflict, said: "These forces may be good at terrorising civilians and taking care of the lightly armed KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] but one waits to see how they would cope with the highly trained and professional soldiers Nato will be using if there is a land war.

"Undoubtedly, Milosevic has gained from the experience of Tito as the West is finding to its cost. But will he have the right calibre of men to see this thing through the way Tito could



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AN Wilson on the age of consent

THE BEST-WRITTEN SUNDAY PAPER IN BRITAIN, FEATURING ALAIN DE BOTTON, SIMON SINGH, DAVID THOMSON, JEREMY CLARKE, BERYL BAINBRIDGE, HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL, ALAN WATKINS, JOAN SMITH, MICHAEL BYWATER AND WALLACE ARNOLD

GP admits he helped 300 patients to die

A FAMILY doctor accused of By CHERRY NORTON murdering an elderly patient helped around 300 patients to the former United Nations die during his career, a court

was told yesterday. Doctor David Moor, 52, a GP for 28 years in a one-man practice in Fenham, Northumberland is charged with murdering George Liddell, 85, who was suffering from cancer. He denies the charge.

The prosecution claims that Dr Moor, of Hexham, North umberland, deliberately injected Mr Liddell, a retired ambulance man, with a lethal amount of diamorphine, with the intention of shortening life in July 1997.

Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC for the defence told the jury that Dr Moor was simply trying to prevent suffering in someone he honestly believed to be close to death. "A doctor treating someone who is terminally ill is walking a tightrope. If he gives a high dose there is a possibility the patient could die. Dr Moor did not set out deliberately to kill Mr Liddell, he was at all times trying to do the best for his patient as he saw it. He was trying to ease the suffering of someone very

very close to death." He added: "Mr Liddell was suffering from an advanced form of cancer which originated in the bowel and had claims that he had taken part spread throughout the body. in assisted suicide. responsible for his death, but he had written an article himwe do say it was responsible for causing him considerable lished in the Evening pain and suffering." Mr Arlidge said that the post mortem examination revealed that Mr Liddell also had a serious heart condition which could have resulted in his

Rachel Ellis, a journalist. interviewed Dr Moor in July 1997, following a newspaper article about Dr Michael Irwin.

medical director who said he belped 50 patients to die. The court heard quotes from Dr Moor included in her story which said: "This week I helped two patients on the way to a pain-free release from their painful agony and suffering. Making that kind of decision is not an easy way out, it's very stressful if you are

Liddell: 85-years-old and suffering from cancer

ously worked for a newspaper in Newcastle, had telephoned the GP, who was a regular contributor to the Tyneside paper. for reaction to Dr Irwin's

self on euthanasia to be pub-Chronicle later that week. He read the article to me. I was surprised and clearly shocked about what he had said. I asked him if he was happy for these comments to be published in a story. I also explained that in the Irwin article it said that there was a possibility of a police investigation and asked him if he

wanted to go ahead, he said he James Goss QC if in subse-Moor the GP had ever said he had been misquoted, Miss

Susan Allison, a reporter on Newcastle Evenino Chronicle, told the court she also interviewed Dr Moor. She claimed Dr Moor said to her: "I'm not doing anything different to what the majority of other GPs are doing. I'm sure it's happening across Newcastle and across the whole country and the only difference is that I'm prepared to say what

Rachel Chapman, head of communications for the NHS Executive Northern and Yorkshire region told the court she telephoned Dr Moor on the day the Chronicle article appeared. Reading from her shorthand notebook, she said Dr Moor had told her: "I probably dealt with 10 a year and have been doing so for the last 30 years. In terms of the last week I have had two patients. They were people that were ready to go and their relatives

were ready for them to go." A police investigation was launched into Mr Liddell's death after Dr Moor gave newspaper and television interviews on his views about euthanasia.

mary care development for Newcastle and North Tyneside Health Authority told the Moor about the media coverage his comments were attracting, "I asked him to think carefully before speaking with members of the media and recommended he contacted the Medical Defence

The trial was adjourned



Dr David Moor arriving at his home yesterday from court North News and Pictures

Cunningham stories claim first scalp

THE HEAD of the press office BY COLIN BROWN at the Ministry of Agriculture (Maff) has been pushed out of his job, it was announced yesdirector of information, will

While there is no suggestion of failures by Mr Blakeway, ministerial sources said Jack Cunningham, the former minister of agriculture, had been furious about the failure of the press office to stop highly damaging leaks about his expensive tastes in furniture and travel at taxpayers' expense. The stories followed Mr Cunningham after his move to the Cabinet Office. As a result he was forced to cancel the order of a £15,000 table and chairs in Brazilian hardwood and was pilloried for using Concorde for a ministe-

rial trip to the United States.

The official press release announcing Mr Blakeway's departure said Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister "has warmly thanked him for the contribution he has made to the department over the past three years". But it was coupled with tures, including that of Andy biting criticism of his department after a review ordered by Mr Cunningham in the wake of the BSE crisis. It found "Maff's broad range of policies and ac-fice after Gordon Brown betivities were being undersold". came Chancellor.

Chief Political Correspondent

A statement yesterday said: "The review team concluded that the fundamental problem was the culture of the organisation as a whole exacerbated by the current status of the information division in Maff. In the team's view, staff elsewhere in the ministry accorded too low a priority to communications contributed substantially to the difficulties faced by Maff's information professionals."

Mr Blakeway, a quietly spoken Scot, is to be replaced by Robert Lowson, a senior official dealing with agriculture with the European Union in Brussels, who will take on a new title

Mr Blakeway is the tenth victim of the Whitehall "purge" of government press officers since the 1997 general election. The move may be seen as "control freak" tendencies at Number 10, which have led to a number of high-profile depar-Wood, who was Mo Mowlam's press officer at the Northern Ireland Office, and Jill Rutter, who left the Treasury press of-

Chief constable quits on eve of hearing

THE CHIEF Constable of Gwent The initial allegations before he is due to face a disciplinary hearing over allegations of misconduct, it was reported last night.

Gwent Police refused to confirm the departure of Francis Wilkinson, but said an official statement would be issued on Monday - the day that Mr Wilkinson, who has been suspended from duty for 17 months, is due to appear before the tribunal to face four allegations of misconduct

vestigated by Gloucestershire's Chief Constable, Tony Butler, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority.

After the inquiry was completed, the Crown Prosecution Service announced in May last year it would not be bringing criminal charges against the suspended police chief.

But two months later, Gwent Police Authority said Mr Wilkinson would still have to face a tribunal hearing.



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2016

PROFILE

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Asda and Woolworths in £18bn merger

BY NIGEL COPE Associate City Editor

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LLACE ARNOLD

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EREMY CLARKE BRITISH CONSUMERS could _soon see a new-look high street rafter Kingfisher - the retail group which owns Woolworths, B&Q. Comet and Superdrug announced an £18bn merger with Asda. The deal creates the

UK's largest shopping group.
It would also be the largest retailer in Europe, dwarfing Marks & Spencer, which is worth £12bn, and the tenth

largest in the world. The company, to be be called kingfisher, pledged to use its financial muscle to offer good deals to consumers.

"Both companies believe the potential benefits of the merger would enable the enlarged (orresponden group to further improve their commitment to offering customers the best possession and service as well as permanently low prices." Kingfisher CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE Caffernial problem and Asda said.

and whole execution The deal, announced in the sity yesterday, is likely to see SERVE OF them de don in Nat L the companies selling each other's merchandise. Asda's George range of clothing would be sold in branches of Wool-

- Consideration Kingfisher's Superdrug toi-Man a mark letries and Comet electrical goods could be sold in Asda's superstores. The combined a display group would have significant Ce teplaced shares in sectors such as chil-The same as the second object dren's clothing, CDs and etat Tiche and videos. increasing pressure on high-street competitors.

1 300 i 500 a Ba े- विकास की 2 feeting It would have a total of al-TO THE PROPERTY. most 3,000 stores, easily the largest chain in Britain. King-(4) (2) 医腹膜 fisher has 2,742, including 786 Woolworths, 70 Superdrugs and 290 B&Qs. Asda has 227 supermarkets.

Kingfisher emerges as the senior partner in the merger, with its shareholders set to control two-thirds of the shares in the new group. The deal follows a break-down in merger talks between the companies last year, while in 1997 Asda

held perger talks with Safeway. lation that Wal-Mart, the US hypermarket retailer, might be preparing to invade the UK market and that Asda could be

City analysts were yesterday speculating that there could still be a rival bid for Asda by Carretour, the French hypermarket since then to become Britain's retailer. On the stock market third-largest supermarket shares in other supermarket operators such as Tesco and Sainsbury's rose in trading yesterday on the possibility of fur**ASDA**

WOOLWORTH'S SUPERDRUG

MEGASTORE: ANATOMY OF THE WORLD'S TENTH-BIGGEST RETAIL GROUP

COMET

B&Q



Almost 80,000 staff are em-

ployed in 242 locations. Its

£7.6bn and profits were £404m

Shoppers are greeted by cluck-

ing chickens and other gim-

PROFILE

HAT WILL

The Kingfisher-Asda merg-

Britain's £60bn supermar-

er comes at a sensitive time for

ket sector was referred to the

new Competition Commission

last week on grounds of al-

jected to an extended cam-

paign against supposed

"rip-off" prices, with commen-

tators pointing to far lower prices for food and clothing

elsewhere in Europe and in the

United States. Analysts said the merger could be delayed by a competition investigation, though one said: "I can see no

The company will be run by

Sir Geoff Mulcahy of Kingfish-

er, who will be chief executive

of the combined group. Allan

Leighton, Asda's chief execu-

tive, will be his deputy. Archie Norman, Asda's chairman, and

former finance director of

The deal caps a remarkable

comeback by Asda, which was

on the brink of collapse in 1992

before Mr Norman came in to

run it. It has grown rapidly

group, behind Tesco and Sains-

they will give more merger de-

Kingfisher and Asda said

Kingfisher, will be non-execu-

tive deputy chairman.

UK retailers have been sub-

UK retailing.

leged profiteering.

grounds for one."

micks. Employees, who sport

big, yellow badges, are called

Shoppers could soon be able to

"colleagues" in a friendly,

happy-clappy environment

buy Superdrug, Comet and

Woolworths products. Will

its larger rivals.

boost Asda's chances of chal-

lenging Tesco and Sainsbury's.

turnover for 1997-98 was

WOOLWORTHS

Family retailer employing some 30,000 at 787 outlets. Turnover of £1.76bn and profits of £114.4m for 1998-1999.

High-street stalwart all over Britain. Cheap-and-cheerful stores using tried and trusted formula of selling everything from pick-and-mix sweets to children's clothing.

Asda's George clothing range might line up alongside Woolies' own Ladybird label. Woolworths' products could similarly find their way on to Asda's

superdrug

About 12,000 staff employed at more than 700 stores, £798.5m turnover and £41m profits (1998-1999).

New "Concept" stores have moved towards swish, healthand-beauty emphasis. Stores have wooden floors and boast of a "chatty, magazine style of communication'

Allied to Asda, the chain could gain ground on its larger rival Boots and add significantly to the 4.5 million customers it at-

tracts every week.

Comet

Employs almost 9,000 people in 270 stores. £862.4m turnover and £33.4m profits (1998-1999}

No-frills electrical retailer with emphasis on low cost, struggling to match the turnover of powerful rivals such as Dixons.

Alliance with Asda will give it more purchasing power, enabling it to compete more successfully with its rivals and possibly bringing down the

price of electrical goods.

Employs 14,563 people at 290 stores. £1.9bn turnover and £188m profits (1998-1999)

User-friendly format for the weekend home-improver. Stores come in two formats, the smaller "supercentre" and 37 larger "warehouses", located mainly out of town.

Potential for loyalty scheme incorporating Asda and Britain's largest DIY retailer. Will not be as obviously affected as other Kingfisher companies.

stable quits a target. City at hearing

Pupils to use 'dumbed-down' calculators

> SPECIALLY "DUMBED DOWN" BY JUDITH JUDD calculators are to be compulexams as part of the Govern-

ment's drive to raise standards. At present, candidates are allowed to take any calculator into an A-level exam, including those which draw graphs and solve algebraic equations. The new, official calculators will this will make the examinations

more demanding.

Critics say the decision to introduce officially approved calless than maximum power." culators for some papers is ni scalculators does not lower standards. They argue chat students need a sophisticated grasp of maths to operate the graphic calculators and those with algebraic functions.

But ministers, who have already insisted under-eights should not be given calculators, are determined to curb their use even among sixth-formers. They originally wanted a calculator-free paper but have said: "New A-level maths agreed to the compromise of an approved calculator.

New rules, which will come into force from 2002, stipulate that computers, graphic calculators and calculators with computer algebra functions will be barred for a quarter for the examination.

Professor Margaret Brown of London said decision to produce "offiial" calculators was ridicu- A-levels are safeguarded.

Education Editor

lous. "Students should be able to do some maths without calculators but it is possible to set an algebraic answer for which you can't use calculators.

"And in order to use an algebraic calculator sensibly, you provide less help and govern-ment exam advisers say that derstanding of maths. That is a sufficient test. I can't see the point of training pupils to use two sorts of calculators, one of

The changes are the result "daft" and that the use of nor- of the introduction of new A and AS-level courses from next September. As many as 75,000 approved calculators might be needed in the first year.

The Qualifications and Cur-

riculum Authority, which advises the Government on exams, said a specification for the new calculators had not yet , been agreed upon, but they might be produced by several manufacturers. A spokesman exams will include papers in which candidates are permitted to use calculators which will not offer graph-drawing or equation solving features, nor will they permit candidates to store formulae they should know, as machines currently allowed in A-level exams do. These arrangements will add specific demands and help to ensure the standard and challenge of

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Current Status (e.g. Student/Protession/Unemployed)

No-one forgets a good teacher.

SUE ARNOLD

When I said the only place I wanted to go to was

Jamaica, he said 'no prob'

WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 5

'I don't blame anyone. It was my misjudgement that was to blame'

His home loan, his private life, his chances of returning to office: in his first interview since his fall from power, Peter Mandelson answers questions from 'Independent' readers

Do you believe that the mod- wash with the public. You can't end? And where can I get a copy of your book, "The Blair Revolution"? Nada Farhoud, Bromham, Beds

Of course not. The party and its policies are changing, and will continue to change, to meet the changing needs of the country. But its values stay the same. And I will be disappointed if in 10 years or so another generation is not saying, "These Blair ideas, they're looking a bit old-fashioned now". As for the book, I'll e-mail you.

Do you have a single fridge/freezer combo or two separate units? Tertio Ltd. London

For the moment, I have two separate units But, as I think move and don't know what the position might be in a few weeks time. Why? Are you in the fridge/freezer business?

If you were still in office, would you have allowed BSkyB's bid for Manchester United to go through? James Camp, Reading

Given the very strong and unequivocal rejection of the bid by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in its detailed report, I am sure that I would have accepted its conclusions.

Sorry to see you go before your time. I actually thought you were the brightest bloke of them all, but just one question: why did you wear that horrible moustache in the Eighties? Dr Dirk Pilat, Alexandria, Scotland

That's a very good question and one I have asked myself ever since I shaved it off. And

Which currently sitting Tory MP do vou most admire and why? NC, Bath

There's not that many left to choose from but I would have to say Ken Clarke. He's both a paid-up member of the human race and one of the few Tories who has, at times, put national interest before his own narrow party interest. Although he probably won't thank me for

What are your goals for the next 10 years? Roger Hewell.

I'm afraid this might not seem exciting to some people, but first to con inue serving my constituents in Hartlepool whose support I have even more reacontinue doing whatever I can to support the New Labour government because I believe what they are doing is right for this country.

Can you account for the unexciting, not to state colourless and boring, performance You have recently been inof the Government since you left it? John Lunn, Tidenham I just don't agree with you. How can any cabinet with Clare Short and Mo Mowlam be described as colourless? The past few months have been a perikeeping our economy on track. putting new money into schools brought in the minimum wage, and the biggest-ever increase in child benefit. We're striving Ireland. This is not boring or unmedia would have you believe. er working with charities. This is a good government, getting on with what it was elected to do.

What advice would you give to William Hague to improve his image, both inside the party and to the general public? And do you think he Cabinet. would listen? Steve Gould-

ing, via e-mail I seem to be the only person in the country he's not consulted so far. But I have real doubts about whether any of them are giving him good advice. I think enough to indicate that he betrying to sell him as a "regular guy" and a "working-class me to do. I hope that is the case

ernisation period of the sell as a regular guy someone Labour Party has come to an who ordered Hansard from his local newsagent as a teenager, It just doesn't ring true. He's got to concentrate less on his image and more on his policies. He's got to ask himself, for instance, if he is sincere about caring Conservatism, why his party is so implacably opposed to the minimum wage. He's got to put his stamp on his party and resist being stampeded off to the right by some of his wild-eyed front-bench colleagues. But, frankly, this is not a question for me but for the

a "Machiavellian", bave you did von see vourself? Sean Mahoney, Manchester everyone knows, I'm about to I'm sure that Machiavelli would say "whether I've read it or not.

> Do you think you were just the The media do like collecting

scalps. But, and this is a difficult thing for a politician to say. I have no one but myself to blame for what happened. I made a misjudgment and paid the price. It's why the past few months have been so painful. I've spent much of that time kicking myself. But because I knew I was damaging the Government and the party. I resigned quickly. And after the last government, that's a pretty rare event in itself.

London

is one of the lessons I will learn. I certainly think that I'm not as bad as I've been painttradictions that I'm supposed to

son to appreciate now, and to Sarah-Jane Gray, via e-mail. house. I honestly doubt

> volved in charity work. Would you consider giving up politics altogether if you found that you bad a strong vocation for that sort of thing? Euon

Tait. Bognor Regis It is not really fair to suggest for the people of our country. in charity work. My time as a We are keeping our pledges - volunteer in Tanzania when I was young for instance, was perhaps the most rewarding and hospitals and reforming the and stimulating experience of constitution to bring power my life. It certainly transformed closer to the people. We've my outlook and equipped me for later life in a way I never foresaw. I still feel I can make my best contribution in politics. for a new future for Northern But if a time comes when I no longer think this is the case, exciting, despite what the then I would certainly consid-

> What chance do you think you have of being the next Labour prime minister? Tom Morgan, Salisbury

None at all - and, despite what you may have read, that was also my view when I was in the

When do you envisage your calls would have been dull return to Tony's Cabinet? Jon Barry, via e-mail When I left the Government

the Prime Minister was kind lieved there would be more for hero" is pretty much an act of - that I can do more for my venting this guacamole story as desperation and won't really country, my constituency and a joke. But there are some sto-

Mission Impossible team. As you constantly get labelled

ever read Machiavelli? If so, T should say yes".

obvious next media target (encouraged by some discontented and under-achieving old, un-electable Labour MPs) or was there another agenda? Who do you think will be the next target? KMc-Clure, via e-mail

talked of as being witty and charming. Public perception sees you as cold and controlling. Wouldn't you benefit from allowing more of this private persona to shine through? Paul Williams,

I am sure you are right and it ed. But given the press I've had, that would be pretty difficult. It's one of those strange conbe all-powerful with the media and I've got such a lousy image

Do you have a new doublebarrelled improbably named assistant? If not, can I apply? Without bringing to life some characters from PG Wodewhether I could top Benjamin Wegg-Prosser. But I chose him for his ability, not his name and it was a very good choice.

and the country. Were you aware your phone was bugged, and if so, did you think this was unfair? H Collings, Stafford

I don't know whether it was, but if it did happen, I don't think it was fair. What I do know is the

> Are you now able to differentiate between guacamole and mushy peas? Holen Kolawole, Crawley I think a former leader of the Labour Party owns up to in-

know what they meant.

Given the intense economic

pressures placed on our stu-

dents, do you believe that you

would have had a successful

career had you been a stu-

dent in Nineties Britain?

Also, do you believe that this

country will suffer in the fu-

ture as a result of failing to

provide a feasible method

for many of our poorer, yet

most talented, youngsters to

flourish? Graham Paul. Ed-

I certainly think that youngsters

and the country would have suf-

fered if we had kept an artificial

cap on student numbers while

continuing to reduce the

amount of funding per head for

students. It fell by 25 per cent

under the last government.

Under our reforms, no parent

will pay more than they did be-

fore, all payments are related

to ability to pay, and higher ed-

ucation will benefit from in-

creased funding. The student

loan system has been reformed

to give most students longer to

pay and the loan does not have

to be repaid until their income

reaches a certain level. Only

those families in the upper-in-

come bracket will have to pay

full tuition fees. The least well-

off third won't have to pay any

tuition fees. The result of the re-

forms is we can now lift the cap

on numbers, so more than

500,000 students can go into fur-

ther and higher education.

That's good news for students

inburgh

for my party. And for the Government, too, though what I grave, whether they are true or might or might not do in the funot, and I'm sure that this one will follow me there. I don't ture is wholly a matter for the Prime Minister I shall continue to do the best that I can, as I won't have them sneering at Hartlepool, It's a wonderful I believe I have always tried to place with wonderful people, I Do you still stick by the infapreciate the support from its mous quote from Dispatchpeople even more after what es' in 1990 where you has happened in recent described yourself as "the months. I'm very grateful. I nicest person I know and know some metropolitan types, what I say is the truth as I see who've never set foot near Hartlepool, think Γm an odd MP it"? Sue Polchow, Oxfordshire I can't quite recall who said that for the constituency but I don't the British public would stand think that - and, more imporfor most things, but they do tantly, I think nor do many peodraw the line at irony. But I ple in the town itself.

> Which of your achievements since Labour came to power are you most proud of? Jane Ashby, via e-mail

> I enjoyed and greatly valued working at the heart of government when I was in the Cabinet Office. And while at the Department of Trade and Industry, I think we helped make Britain a better place for business and for people at work. I believe that the competitiveness White Paper on building the knowledge-driven economy and pioneering electronic commerce offers a new way forward for business in Britain, working with the Government, I think that the introduction of a national minimum wage for the first time ever will help millions of low-paid people, too often forgotten by society - and especially low-paid women. Our legislation on fairness at work will help improve the workplace. And I believe that giving the Post Office greater commercial freedom will offer important new opportunities for an important British business. I was proud to lead the team which produced such positive and constructive advances for

> As a Liberal voter who voted Labour on the strength of its commitments to constitutional reform, I would like to ask Mr Mandelson which constitutional changes does he think are the most important to ensure a sustained im-UK government at all levels (assuming that quality is related to accountability), and which does he think are most likely to be implemented by current and future Labour governments? Pete Callaghan, Croydon

think one of the ways New Labour has confounded its critics is in its determination to every school and innovative carry out what we said we would do. When we make promises, we keep them. Unlike the Tories. Some people clear-route out of poverty. So the New ly thought that we would either Deal, for instance, is helping to abandon our programme of regive people the chance of a

Peter Mandelson at his constituency home. 'I don't mind people laughing at me but I won't have them sneering at Hartlepool, It's a wonderful place ries which go with you to the newing the framework of proper job and proper training Britain's constitution, or become completely bogged down by it. We've done neither Inmind people laughing at me, but stead. we're getting on with for those who can, security for what we said we would do. Giving people in Scotland and phrase. It's what drives our pro-Wales the chance to vote on new gramme of welfare reform. within the UK - and then Do you believe, as I do, that putting them into place when they indicated their wishes. Pressing ahead with a new settlement for Northern Ireland. Implementing new mechanisms for improving the economies of the English regions. Bringing back a citywide authority for our great capital, London - together with an elected mayor. Establishing a searching and authoritative inquiry into new electoral processes in the House of Commons - and bringing in new processes for other elections. Legislating to get rid of hereditary peers, and creating a new Royal Commission for longerterm reform - something I have taken a keen interest in from the backbenches. Improving the way both national and local government works. Getting right the detailed proposals for enacting freedom of information. All these are important. All these will improve the way government works for the people of Britain. And all of them will be done by New Labour.

> What's your favourite Barry Manilow song? Elliott Gotkine, London After many years of dealing with the Press, I'm tempted by "Read 'Em and Weep". But what about one of his most famous ones? I can't quite remember its title, but I think it

Do you believe that the Government has a moral duty to reduce the gap - in terms of those who must rely on state benefits (including many of I don't think they are mutually your own constituents) and those who can decide their of your associates)? Ben Carlin. Brussels

rhymes with brandy.

I certainly believe that it is the In your view, what are the duty of society and governprovement in the quality of ment to look after those who most significant achievecan't look after themselves and to ensure everyone else has the chance to make their contribution to society and fulfil their most significant tasks that repotential. This government has increased support for those who need it. But we are also ensuring children get the best possible start in life through our drive to raise standards in programmes, such as Sure Start. We also believe that for those who can, work is the best

- and has already belped haive long-term youth unemployment since the election. Work those who can't isn't just a

one's sexual orientation is a matter of privacy, and should not be the subject of public disclosure? Jenny Waldron, London Yes, I do - and I think most peo-

ple would agree. My personal life is not secret but it is private and I think others should respect that.

As a keen supporter of projects dealing with the homeless, how do you suggest getting the Government to address this issue directly? Fran Budd, Battersea I think you are being a little unfair to the Government. Tony

Blair set up the Social Exclusion Unit, in which I was involved, and made one of its first priorities tackling rough sleeping and homelessness. He asked it to report quickly, which it did last summer. The Government accepted its recommendations in full and has already appointed a homelessness "csar" for London, where the problem of rough sleeping is most acute. She has been given the resources to meet the published target of bringing down the number of rough sleepers sharply within three vears. And councils are being allowed, at last, to spend their capital receipts to build and renovate thousands of properties so we can get people out of bed-and-breakfasts and into their

Would you prefer to be remembered as a moderniser or income inequality - between a socialist? Robert Page, via email

own homes

exclusive. I would like to be remembered as someone who own salaries (including some played his part in helping modernise socialism

Labour Government's three ments - achievements which will have a lasting impact - to date, and what are the three main to be accomplished over this parliament and (potentially) the next? Michael Cutbill, via e-mail

For me, the minimum wage which will help tackle poverty pay. Tackling boom-and-bust by giving the Bank of England independence. And our educalong way to go to ensure all our made the slightest difference to he was never afraid to take risks

child poverty. But we are getwill take more than one parliament, which is why it is so important we get re-elected.

London Neil Kinnock, because he had

the courage to be a moderniser when it was very difficult - and his guts and leadership saved the Labour Party.

Given the current state of the If you could be re-incarnated what do you consider it has lost or gained by your premature departure? John Lamsin, Brixton Community

College Given that the Government continues to deliver its promises and continues to have record absolutely"? Antonio Karvousupport in the country, I think I would have to say that it lost a hard-working Trade and Industry Secretary in me and gained a hard-working one in Stephen Byers.

you or we can blame the media for your inevitable and very public departure from the immediate political stage? Michael Elliott. Brixton Community College I don't. It was my own mis-judgment that was to blame.

If a film was to be made of your life, which actor would you chose to portray you? Sally Quinlan, Brighton Alan Rickman (because he's not afraid of playing the hard

Did you oppose the policy of cruise missiles in the Eighties? Anthony Young. London No. I supported their deployment because that's what being a loyal member of Nato re-

Why do "Independent" readers like reading stories about spin-doctors and cronyism? Christopher Pym, Milton Keimes

Journalists might think they do. but I'm not sure that's the case. People are more interested in serious reporting about the things they care about than Westminster village gossip.

Do you agree with the widely held perception that since your resignation and that of Charlie Whelan, the relationship between the Prime Min- on your political career? Viviister and the Chancellor has improved? R Kempadoo. Vic-

I'm glad this is all behind me now, but our departures have not

NHS, and to rid this country of one of the closest partnerships in modern politics and they ting there. And you're right. It work together in a way no previous Prime Minister and Chancellor have done.

Now you're not quite so busy, What politician do you most can you come and help me out Lunn, Labour candidate for Western Park

If you think I would be an asset I would love to campaign for you (unless Millbank told me I had to forget a marginal elsewhere...)

New Labour Government, as someone living today, who would you chose to be? Anthea Brook, via e-mail Didn't Hoddle get into trouble for straying into this area?

> Does Mr Mandelson agree that "absolute power corrupts nis, via e-mail

> Are you sorry to no longer be in charge of the millennium Dome? Jane Carr. Hebden

How far do you consider that I miss the Dome very much because I think it is going to be a wonderful achievement and a powerful symbol of Britain's ambition and its self-confidence. It will also be a great fun day out (and an affordable one) for every family in the land. That's worth the sweat and tears.

> In 1997 and 1998, it was widely reported that you sabotaged Michael Foster's Private Mentber's Bill to abolish hunting with hounds. Were these reports true? Terry Sessford Wincanton

My job at the cabinet office was to think ahead, to anticipate the pitfalls and side-effects of our policies and sometimes to offer unwelcome advice - which I was not afraid to do. But these particular reports were mischief-making I did not sabotage the Bill and was never in a position to do so.

Which books have influenced you the most? Patrick Fox, London

Zola's Germinal and William Morris' News From Nowhere. Perhaps, though, I should reread Gerald Kaufman's [How to be a Minister

To what extent do you feel that your grandfather [Labour politician Herbert Morrison) has had an important impact enne Qurrey, Liverpool

I've become more aware of my grandfather after becoming a minister. He combined ideas and children get a good education, the relationship between Tony and stand up for what he believed. to restore and modernise the and Gordon. They had and have I think that's a good model.

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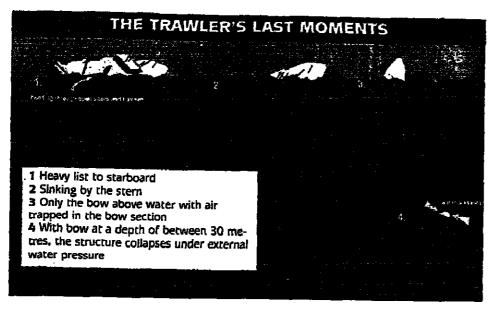
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New evidence reopens Gaul investigation

be reopened into the loss of the fishing trawler Goul, a quarter of a century after it sank with

the loss of all 36 crew. John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday that an underwater search of the wreck of the Hull-based trawler had found "new and important evidence".

A public inquiry by a Wreck Commissioner will be held later this year and a report is expected to be published in 2000.

The decision was welcomed by the families of the crew who have campaigned for 25 years for a fresh inquiry into what happened to the Gaul in February 1974.

Mr Prescott, also published a report by the Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) which said the trawler had sunk in 10 minutes after it was swamped by 50ft waves.

Two loading hatches had not been locked and two watertight doors had been left open, the report said.

Mr Prescott, who ordered the MAIB report in January 1998, said the inspectors had carried out "an impressive feat He said: "Their report con-

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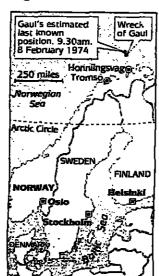
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2.5 AN OFFICIAL investigation is to BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

> cludes that new and important evidence has been found and I have therefore ordered that the formal investigation should reopen in full. I sincerely hope the reopened formal investigation will be able to address any outstanding questions on the circumstances of her loss and close the chapter of this very tragic event."



The MAIB report broadly supports the conclusions of the first official investigation in 1974 which found the vessel had foundered and capsized in

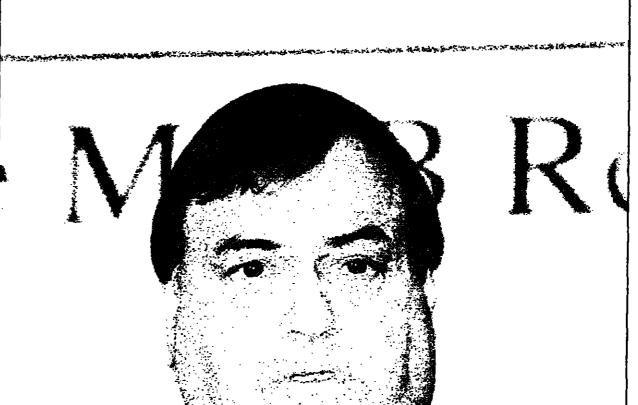
Despite that inquiry, rumours have persisted that the Gaul was sunk by the Soviet navy while engaged on a spying mission.

Yesterday the MAIB said it had found nothing to connect the Gaul with an intelligencegathering mission. It said there was no evidence of fire damage or explosion and nothing to show she had been holed. It said that a tear in the hull – which critics have said was caused by another vessel – was due to water pressure.

Relatives' reactions to the MAIB report were mixed with some saying it had failed to say why the Goul sank.

Ian Sheppard, 50, who lost his father, Thomas, condemned the report as a farce.

"We've asked them questions and they just can't answer them. I think it's rubbish that it sank after being hit by a wave." he said. "I believe it was hit by something below the wated that at the time there could 'how did your father die?' and wreckage found and no bodies more sinister but I agree with ian coast in 1974.



John Prescott announcing a new investigation yesterday into the loss of the 'Gaul'

have been a World War Three." Paul Broom, whose father, Sydney, was second mate on the trawler, said: "This investigation has affected us all our lives. We've had to grow up with no father. But what's most

we answer 'I don't know'." Michael Spurgeon, whose father, Maurice, was a crew member said that he still had grave doubts.

found at the time - these must be answered at the inquiry." Billy Jones, died in the tragedy, said: "I think it's quite feasible "There still remains a lot of the boat was hit by heavy waves tests on three bodies, believed

what the report has to say." Mr Prescott, who is MP for

Kippa Matthews

Bervi Betts, whose brother. Hull East, said a new search would be launched to trace. exhume and perform DNA questions that need answering. and went down. "For years I to be crew members, that were

THE LONG CAMPAIGN

January 22, 1974: 'Gaul' leaves Hull, with 36 crew.

February 10, 1974: Boat reported missing. No distress call made.

February 11-15, 1974: Search finds no trace.

October 1974: Inquiry concludes it probably sank after being swamped.

1974: Conspiracy theories: Holed by Soviet sub while spying; sunk accidentally by Nato; scuttled by crew, who were later jailed by Russians.

1974: Bill Rodgers, defence minister, told relatives: "Trawler fleet is not involved in any way in any intelligence-gathering."

1996: Trawler skipper Mason Redfearn says that, at request of Navy, he spied on Russians

August 19, 1997: 'Gaul' found 70 miles off Norway, near Russian border. by Anglia TV and Norwe-gian TV film-makers.

August 1997: Documentary team finds that three unidentified bodies were washed up in Russia.

December 1997: Defence minister John Reid says trawlers were used "for specific intelligencegathering operations" in the 1960s and 1970s.

January 1998: John Prescott announces official survey of the wreck.

August 8, 1998: Marine Accident Investigation Branch team takes 40 hours of film.

August 15, 1998: Mr Prescott says he wants to reopen formal inquiry and seek exhumation of the three bodies

December 9, 1998: Families see footage of the underwater search.

April 16, 1999: Mr Prescott publishes Marine Accidents report, reopens inquiry, orders search for three unidentified bodies

Students now graduating with debts of £4,500 each

A DRAMATIC increase in By Barrie Clement student debt and a growing gap between the salaries of male and female graduates is revealed in research published

By the time students leave university they have borrowed more than twice as much as their counterparts in 1994, and the debt burden is expected to grow further.

The reduction in student grants and the increasing availability of special student loans has led to a massive rise in borrowing, according to the survey of 2,400 graduates.

growing differential between salaries paid to male and female university leavers. While young men earned an £28,119, while female graduaverage £14,619, women received £12,301 - a difference of nearly 20 per cent.

The factor of th Despite equality legislation and enhanced awareness of the "gender gap", the differential rose 8 per cent between 1997 and 1998.

The survey for Barclays Bank said the disparity was partly explained by increasing salaries for science, engineering and technology graduates - mostly men - compared with salaries available in areas dominated by women.

The average salary for new graduates in engineering - of whom 85 per cent were male was £15,225, compared with languages – 78 per cent female where the pay was £10,633.

The gender differences were Researchers also found a also reflected in salary expectations. The average pay expected by male graduates after five working years was ates were expecting £22,851 - a

difference of 23 per cent. The report pointed out that the huge rise in borrowing by students was detected before the introduction last September of £1,000-a-year fees.

The average debt was £4,497 last year, compared with £2,212

> Some 79 per cent of 1998 graduates had borrowed an average £2.865 from the Student Loan Company. Nearly 60 per cent had borrowed money from their main bank and owed an average of £1,112.

> Barclays found, however, that attitudes to borrowing had become more relaxed over the past five years and that graduates recognised both the costs and benefits of attending university. Fourteen per cent more uni-

> versity leavers were "comfortable or unconcerned" about their borrowing levels in 1998 than their counterparts in 1994. The market for graduates

was relatively buoyant. The average number of job applications per student had declined from 27 in 1994 to 17 last year. The survey found that 89

increased by 103 per cent be- jobs in the first six months tween 1994 and 1998, by which after graduation and that time they owed a total of £814m. salaries over the past five years had risen broadly in line with inflation.

The average salary last year was £13,388 a year - an increase of £1,919, or 17 per cent, since 1994. Graduates who found work in their "preferred career" were on £15,551, 16 per cent more than the average salary.

This compared with a difference of 10 per cent in 1994 when those entering their preferred career earned an average of £12,665 a year.

Students were more concerned with gaining immediate employment than getting the ideal job. The percentage in "stop-gap" jobs had risen by 12 number of graduates who went into their preferred career had fallen by 7 per cent.

Darrell Pulver, manager of Barclays graduate banking, warned that borrowing levels were likely to increase as the im-Graduate borrowing levels per cent of graduates found pact of tuition fees was felt.

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> *THE INDEPENDENT Next Week

Lawrence QC offers to help family of murdered Asian

Michael Mansfield, QC, has of- Home Affairs Correspondent fered to help the family of a murdered Asian man whose case has been compared to that of Stephen Lawrence.

The family of Surjit Singh Chhokar, a Sikh waiter, yesterday announced Mr Mansfield's support for their campaign after they delivered a 5,000-sig-nature petition to the Lord Adwhite the Holder vocate in Scotland, Lord Hardie, protesting about the authorities handling of the case.

Mr Chhokar, 32, a father-oftwo, was killed in the street outside his girifriend Liz Bryce's shire, last November. No one answers they sought. Around 30 "uninformed and ill-advised".

THE CRUSADING barrister BY IAN BURRELL

has been convicted of his murmurder of Mr Chhokar but was acquitted at the High Court in sault. He was one of three suspects in the murder but the only one brought to trial.

Outside the Crown Office in Edinburgh yesterday, a family spokesman, Aamer Anwar, read an impassioned statement in which he said the justice campaign would continue home in Overtown, Lanark- until the family were given the Lord McCluskey's remarks

family members and supporters observed a minute's silence.

Coulter, 30, stood trial for the crucial role in representing Neville and Doreen Lawrence in their six-year battle for justice Glasgow and convicted of of as- in the case of their son, Stephen. Mr Mansfield, 57, also acted for the Birmingham Six and the Bridgewater Three.

The Coulter trial caused a legal storm after the judge, Lord McCluskey, criticised the Crown Office for prosecuting only one of the men. Lord Hardie then called

Mr Anwar said: "We're not saying it was definitely a racist Mr Anwar welcomed Mr murder. The family wants to Mansfield's support. The human know if it was one." He said the der. Earlier this year, Ronnie rights specialist has played a campaigners did not want to do the job of the Crown Office but felt they had been forced to continue with their campaign for

A Scottish Office spokesman said Frank Crowe, the Deputy Crown Agent, had met the family and supporters for an hour and updated them on the investigation. A report of the meeting would be passed to the Lord Advocate.

A decision relating to the two other suspects is expected to be Britain's Biggest Electrical Stores

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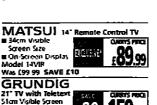
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Shakespeare meets Busby Berkeley

ON "A STAGE" at Shepperton By DAVID LISTER film studios a set has been Art News Editor built to resemble an Oxbridge college. From the door of the School of Social Philosophy appears a tap-dancing Kenneth Branagh, in top hat, white tie and tails, and singing Fred As-taire's "Dancing Cheek To Cheek".

If that is not surprising enough, this is a film of Shakespeare's Love's Labour's Lost. It is being tipped to be the next film after Shakespeare in Love and Romeo and Juliet to make the Bard hip for young audiences and win its stars ac-

Branagh, who is directing and starring, has added Thirties song-and-dance numbers to Shakespeare's text. It is a home-grown film, financed by the National Lottery through Pathé Films in Britain, But the song-and-dance Shakespeare concept has so intrigued one of the world's most powerful film producers, Harvey Weinstein, head of Miramax, that he will distribute it in America, guaranteeing huge publicity and

access to thousands of screens. The film has a British and American cast, with Alicia Sil-

Fred Astaire in 'Top Hat',

verstone, Natascha McElhone and Adrian Lester among those joining Branagh. But it is particularly important for the first film musical to be made here since Absolute Beginners more than 12 years ago.

For this reason the Arts Council has given its first bursary to a young choreographer to study how to work with film actors, as choreographers in Britain have so little experience of this. The council was urged to do this by the film's principal choreographer, Stuart Hopps, who is founder chairman of the British Association of Choreographers.

He says: "It struck me that since this was the first musical for some time, it would be a marvellous training for a young choreographer. There are so many technical things to learn about the filming of dance – understanding tracking shots, the way the lens of the camera

on the stage becomes rounded on the screen, taking a musical number and breaking it down."

The beneficiary of the bursary is Alison Golding, 30. She said: "It's very different to the stage work and pop promos I do, being wide-screen rather than video. Doing the tap routines with the actors took a long time, as it is new to them. But to be around someone like Ken Branagh (who) has such, vision, drive and energy, becomes very

Love's Labour's Lost is a comedy of love and romance in which four young noblemen, led by the king of Navarre, swear to renounce women for three years and promptly fall in love with the Princess of France and ber companions.

The men attempt to salvage their honour in the face of much sharp-witted teasing from the women.

Branagh, after a day of numerous quick changes from tap dancing in top hat and tails to T-shirt and sitting behind the camera, took a break from filming to tell me how he believed the song-and-dance concept would not just revitalise the British musical film but was a much more natural appendage to Shakespeare than it might

"The vocabulary of romantic love is depressingly narrow," he said. "Cole Porter and George Gershwin use the words of Shakespeare. "They Can't take That Away From Me" sounds quite natural when a couple part in the play. And there are so many references in the play to music and dance as elements of courtship. Shakespeare goes on in this play about women's eyes and the power of a look across a crowded room. The idea of love at first sight is something that sits very well in the world of musi-

All the songs in the play, even British film industry, as it is the such classics as "Dancing Cheek To Cheek", are used to further the action rather than interrupt it. The music, said Branagh, "allows people to surrender to the verse. Some of the speeches are unquestionably arias. I would like to think that the verse may be given literally a better chance to sing than

otherwise it might be." The film had an unusually long three-week rehearsal period, necessary to learn dance as well as verse speaking. Branagh spent the first day showing the cast Top Hot and

other Thirties musical films. Considering whether Shakespeare in Love will help his project, Branagh said: "It's hard for me to work out whether in the midst of millennium fever this reclamation of Shakespeare is a reminder to ourselves that

there has been a great achievement, or whether it's just a fashion thing.

"But Shakespeare in Love and Romeo and Juliet have, in crass terms, allowed Shakespeare to be 'cool.' And ininterest Shakespeare's life is probably a good thing."

Of his own project he has no doubts. "The play has magic in the web of it. It gets under the skin," he said, sounding uncannily like a musical number. "And the film is a sort of genre of its own. It's not like anything you've ever seen.'

The producer. David Barron, is promising a release before Christmas, which, by accident or design, makes it just eligible for next year's Oscars.



Kenneth Branagh and Natascha McElhone in the latest update of a work by the Swinger of Avon, a Thirties-style 'Love's Labour's Lost'

£7m needed to rescue failing university

ACADEMICS YESTERDAY pub-lished a rescue plan designed to save from closure the first British university to be condemned as failing.

They insisted Thames Valley University in west London had a sound future, despite last year's damning report on academic standards, and rejected proposals to split it up into a series of local colleges.

84 proposals in the three-year plan, but said staff would need secure high quality and standards" to see them through. Under the scheme, drawn up

by the first hit squad to be drafted into a university, £7.2m will be poured into Thames Valley, which recorded a 20 per cent drop in applications this year. Staff cuts will be inevitable.

It was feared the former Polytechnic of West London, based in Ealing and Slough, might be broken up in the wake of the highly critical report by and financial future." higher education standards watchdogs which expressed ty to award degrees. It led to the tic news".

BY BEN RUSSELL **Education Correspondent**

resignation of the vice chancellor, Mike Fitzgerald.

Concerns about the univer sity surfaced when it invited the higher education Quality Assurance Agency to investigate allegations of "academic dumbing down". The QAA's report found "some evidence that the Funding officials backed the university may have lost sight of some basic principles of quality assurance which should "an absolute determination to be commonplace at an institution with independent degree-

awarding powers". The action plan, drawn up by the acting vice-chancellor Sir William Taylor, recommends a wholesale reorganisation of the university, new internal review panels and a re-organisation of teaching methods.

Sheila Forbes, chairman of the university's governors, said: "The university can be assured of a secure academic

Andrew Pakes, president of the National Union of Students, serious doubts about its abili- said the occision was "fantas-



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IVF study to assess risk of birth defects

A NATIONAL register is to be es- By Cherry Norton tablished of children conceived using a relatively new fertility treatment that has been linked to genetic defects.

There have been more than 3,000 births in the UK from the use of a technique called Intra-Cytplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI). This technique, used when the male partner has a low sperm count, involves a single sperm being injected directly into an egg.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA), the body that governs all fertility clinics in the UK, has approved the establishment of the register by Dr Alastair Sutcliffe, senior lecturer at the Royal Free and University College Medical School in London, and Dr Mike Hawkins, from the Department of Public Health and Epidemiology at the University of Birmingham.

We will need at least 5,000 children born by ICSI to compare with 5,000 'control' children to establish whether the ICSI children are at a higher risk of having major congenital abnormalities," Dr Hawkins

ICSL which was first used in Britain in 1993, is now used in one-quarter of all in vitro fertilisation (TVF) treatments. Its has risen to 21.6 per cent.

argued that ICSI is a genetic time bomb because the treatment "bypasses the selective barriers of evolution".

Indeed, research has suggested that children born by ICSI have more genetic defects. In one study, ICSI children showed twice the incidence of birth defects than children conceived naturally.

The only British research conducted. however, has shown that at approximately 18 months of age there were no major developmental differences between children born by ICSI and those conceived nat-

Dr Sutcliffe, who presented the final report of his findings at the British Fertility Society annual conference this week. said: "Our findings are reassuring for parents of ICSI children. We did find a trend for

them to have more minor congenital disorders but it was not significant," he said. The 429 toddlers who took

part in the study were tested on their eye-hand movements and initial success rate of 4 per cent mental and social development. Follow-up tests are Some fertility experts have planned when the children reach the age of five. "At 18 months it is difficult to pick up subtle differences in development," Dr Sutcliffe said. "A national register would enable us to determine the true extent of

> All fertility clinics in the UK have been invited to participate in the establishment of the register. Parents of ICSI children will be asked to fill in questionnaires on their children's birth weight, any birth defects and their social class. Their anonymity would be guaranteed. Eventually, blood tests and physical examination of the ICSI children may also be conducted as part of the study.

any differences.

"The study would probably take five years to complete." Dr Hawkins said We would also want to look

at differences between single and multiple births.



English Heritage says the gardens at Eltham Palace in south-east London will be redesigned to create a Thirties feel

major new gardens to be created

ate 10 gardens at some of its best-known and most popular tourist attractions. it announced yesterday.

The gardens will be built over the next five years at properties where the existing gardens have fallen into disrepair. When English Heritage commissioned a new garden at

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Walmer Castle, the number of visitors increased by 47 per cent in one year.

The first two gardens will be at Eltham Palace in south-east London and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight, and will be opened to the public in the summer of 2000. Later this

pete to design gardens at deriul opportunity for designers Richmond Castle, North York- to display their talents and to shire and in Lincoln's Medieval Palace. The other six sites have vet to be announced.

Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the chairman of English Heritage. said: "At a time when English

enrich the gardens and landscapes of England for many years to come.'

Among the designers shorta Chelsea Flower Show gold landscape and garden design is medallist, Tom Stuart-Smith,

year, subject to archaeological at a peak, English Heritage's who designed the Chanel garden approval, designers will com-challenge will provide a won- at last year's show, and Rose-Prince Charles at Highgrove. The new gardens will respect the surrounding architecture but will, in most cases be completely new creations. The winners of the competition to revamp the first two gardens

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I see a vacancy, and it's not Fiona Jones's

FIONA JONES, the former Labour MP for Newark, was the surprise winner of the week, leaving vast quantities of egg on the faces of both main parties. Her successful appeal poses a nightmare this weekend for Madam Speaker who, last month, declared the Newark vacancy under the rules of the 1983 Representation of the People Act.

The Act makes no provision for an MP to be reinstated if the Speaker's Office has been searching in vain for legal precedents to guide Ms Boothroyd, Technically, a byelection should be held, but the smart money must be on the Speaker finding a way to invite Ms Jones back to the Commons without a by-election. Whether Ms Boothroyd has powers to reverse, unilaterally, the vacancy is unclear. A possible route is for the House to pass a resolution empowering the Speaker to declare the vacancy void.

Ms Jones, whose local party has been suspended, was not exactly popular in the constituency and was hung out to dry by Labour's Millbank headquarters, which refused to fund her legal expenses for the appeal.

In the unlikely event of a byelection, natural justice must require the Labour leadership to endorse her candidacy and pull out all the stops to help her hang on to her waferthin majority.

But the Conservatives' Chief Whip, James Arbuthnot, is also in the doghouse for jumping the gun by breaking with precedent and seeking to move the writ for the by-election before Easter. If Mr Arbuthnot's move had been successful we would aiready be in the middle of a by-election campaign. A writ is normally moved by the party which previously held the seat and, as this column two weeks ago, such breaches of convention usually come back to bite with a vengeance.

Mutterings from backbenchers, already grumpy at Mr Arbuthnot's lacklustre performance, predict a change of job when William Hague reshuffles his team in turned page after page, look-June. If Mr Arbuthnot is moved it will cost him financially, as he is one of only three opposition MPs, in addition to Mr Hague, who is paid an official salary on top of his MP's pay. Tory MPs are talking up David Maclean, a former whip and Home Office minister, as a possible successor.

QUESTIONER OF the week award goes to Sir Michael Spicer (C West Worcestershire) who, having spent years giving John Major a hard time as a Maastricht rebel, put his



THE WEEK IN WESTMINSTER

MICHAEL BROWN

skills to good use by flooring John Prescott when he stood in for Tony Blair at Prime Minister's Questions. Sir Michael used the infinitely more effective tactic of a one-sentence question: "Will he give an absolute guarantee that the withholding tax will not be introduced in this country?"

Unusually, the normally assured, combative and confident Mr Prescott lost the plot and stared in silence, openmouthed at Sir Michael. To put it bluntly. Mr Prescott had no idea what this tax was (any more than 99 per cent of MPs) and burbled gibberish about the poll tax and

local authorities. Luckily for Mr Prescott the Tory Deputy Leader. Peter Lilley, stood next and stuck to his scripted question on fuel duty. Mr Lilley's response highlighted the disadvantage of being tied to a pre-planned question. Sir Michael had created an opportunity for Mr Lilley to go for the kill. Instead. Mr Prescott continued to roar incoherently like a seriously injured elephant until the Speaker called time at the end of his worst half-hour since the general election.

Bad numbering, marking and tagging of his briefing file by officials was as much to blame for the disaster, as he ing in vain for the correct answers. But this was the first time in nearly two years that any trouble has befallen Mr Prescott, and, like an elephant, he never forgets who causes him pain. He will recover quickly and retribution will surely follow.

BARONESS YOUNG has not only caused trouble for homosexuals but she has also thrown a spanner in the works for the Government's policy on devolution.

By defeating the second

reading of the Bill to reduce the age of gay consent she has ensured a constitutional crisis for the new Scottish Parliament before it has even been elected. The Bill now falls and

cannot be reintroduced until the next session of Parliament in November. In order for the Parliament Act to apply, the Bill must be reintroduced in exactly the same form as before. But by November the question of the age of consent in Scotland will be a matter for the Scottish Parliament. This means that the Bill to be re-introduced in the Commons would be different to its predecessor and would have to begin its passage all over again through both Houses.

Liam Fox, the Conservative constitutional affairs spokesman, raised the matter in the Commons as a point of order, demanding a statement from Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, to clarify under what legislation the Government intends to implement such proposals.

There is nothing in law to stop the Government from imposing the Bill on Scotland, thereby enabling Royal Assent to be given under the terms of the Parliament Act next January, but it would hardly be an auspicious start for devolution. Ministers were noticeably reticent on the question of using the Parliament Act and Baroness Young may yet have the last laugh.

Most Conservative MPs just want the issue to go away - especially the closet gay MPs who fear exposure. They are dreading yet another debate where they will be forced either to run a mile from the voting lobbies or to vote against their consciences.

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, may be taxing the nation by stealth but the Tory Treasury spokesman, Francis Maude, did not tax Mr Brown at all during Treasury Questions.

Mr Maude seems to have given up challenging Mr Brown altogether. At the start of Question Time, Mr Maude only managed two brief interventions against Mr Brown's deputy, Alan Milburn, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. But halfway through, he left the Conservative front bench altogether and did not return.

MPs were amazed that Mr Maude had deserted his post and left the remainder of the session in the hands of his juniors. There has already been much criticism of Conservative MPs for failing to attend but, up to now, at least the opposition spokesmen

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WI's naked Calendar Girls are jam-packed with offers



Calendar Girls from the Rylstone and District Women's Institute. The original print run of 3,000 has sold out and a further 5,000 have been ordered Kippa Matthews

EVEN WITH her clothes on, Tricia Stewart does not seem your typical Women's Institute type. She is 50, looks years younger and is wearing a short-skirted lilac suit. Her mobile phone jangles like a fairground ride when it rings,

which it does constantly. It was Tricia who came up with the idea that members of the Rylstone and District WI should bare all for charity and it has been an exhausting week. When it began she was Mrs Stewart, upstanding citiis perhaps better known as Miss October international model.

We meet at the Vogue Fashion Agency, the new-to-you clothing shop in Skipton. It is a small, triangular-shaped place, partly owned by Miss November (aka Mrs Ros Fawcett, aged 49). As we chat, several of the other Calendar Girls, as they now call themselves, drop in. Soon we have enough on hand for at least a

They are in fine form. And why not? The 2000 calendar, which shows the women, aged 45 to 60, naked and performing acts of irmense homeliness, By Ann Treneman

has been a huge hit. On Monday they held a press launch at their local pub, the Devonshire Arms in Cracoe, even though they didn't know what a press launch was. Much to their amazement, the world showed up (well, German television, which is a start).

The Sun tried to get them to strip again but Miss March made her position clear.

lage of Cracoe, a mile up the Knowles, the 50-year-old pracroad from Rylstone. Now she tice manager at the local surgery. Tricia says she is the one in most demand. Radio 2 and asked for her phone number.

Perhaps this is because she is wearing only a sieve in the photograph. Oh, and a necklace. "The only thing my husband said when he saw the photograph was 'where did you get those pearls'," says Lynn. She has a big laugh. Tricia says that Practice Manager magazine wants to put Lynn on its cover.

The calendars are £5 each and the original print run of 3.000 went in three days. A further 5,000 have been ordered. is just on the parish council. line being busy.

celebrity and calendar glamour Evidently someone rang up the The women of Rylstone singing carols around the fire John Dunn show on BBC on the December page of their 2000 calendar

the world. Miss November's son rang from Australia to say that he couldn't believe it when he turned on the television and saw his mum. The local WH Smith logged 200 requests in one day. Everyone is being

rung up. "Do you know that even Vera Shuttleworth is getting

calls?" says Miss November. The others look amazed. Who? "Oh she's nothing to do with the calendar. Her husband

Calls are coming from around She is getting calls!" The Calendar Girls cannot even buy a sandwich in Boots without

50 interviews.

only colour in the entire calendar. All the money raised is going to the Leukaemia Research Fund.

being asked if they are warm enough. They are the talk of the Miss July's husband, Terry town. All the husbands and relatives purport to be thrilled. Tricia alone has given at least When she got home on

Wednesday night there were 32 messages on her answerphone and the BT engineer called in because there had been so many complaints about the

find a News of the World man and have said no to Take a on her doorstep, trying to Break, Bella and Best. The shop is filling up. A few obtain a photograph of the husbands in a Full Monty type women are actually trying to pose. Tricia says the Mail on

Tricia awoke the next day to

dedicated to him.

about sex".

shop. Outrageous. They even-Sunday had already offered tually give up. £5.000 for this. The News of the Then there is Julian, a

want to do exclusivity deals

World man said he would be friend, who takes over anback. Tricia says it is out of the swering Tricia's phone. He question. "Too tacky," she says. has come from London with an 'We've got Angela to think order for 30 calendars. He about. It's not just us taking our puts forward the idea of a clothes off," says Tricia. Angela Christmas single, "But we Baker is Miss February, shown can't sing," says Tricia "Well playing "Jerusalem" on the you can't make wine either but of leukaemia last July at the photograph," he says. Miss age of 54 and the calendar is November, the only month to have purls and pearls, admits:

He grew sunflowers and "I can't knit either." every photograph has one or A would-be shopper intertwo, their intense yellow the rupts. She is a newsagent. She hates top-shelf magazines and tells her staff to be "oblivious" to them. But she loves the calendar. "It's real women. It's The photographs, taken by about womanliness.

That was the idea, "No Logan, are a curious mix of touch-ups," says Miss Sep-Health and Efficiency and tember (aka Christine Chancy) who is pictured with a strate-Country Life and no one wants to go over this rather delicate gically placed teapot.

line. Tricia has turned down Tricia's phone jangles again. Vanessa ("too seedy") and It's her husband. He says he another daytime television hasn't seen her in three days. programme because it fea-She laughs. She is having fun. tures "ugly people talking

"I reckon we are going to sell 50,000," she says. She could The Calendar Girls don't well be right.

the wisdom of introducing the system, but the CAA said it strongly backing the system now that the software had been improved. "The worry was that if the system was faulty it would alert the pilot to take action that would itself cause an accident," said a CAA spokesman. Kieron Daly, the editor of Air

THIS MONDAY IN **¥**THE INDFPENDENT

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of Mandelson: The Biography, Donald MacIntvre's unauthorised, and unmissable new book, starts on Monday



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THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT Don't Miss It

BA jet in near-miss over Essex

THE UK'S AVIATION watchdog yesterday launched an investigation into how two passenger aircraft narrowly avoided a mid-air collision. A British Airways plane, with 137 passengers on board, was involved in a near-miss with a United Airlines jet 24,000ft over the Essex

coast on Thursday morning. BA said its Boeing 737 was nearing the end of its flight from Gothenburg in Sweden to Gatwick airport when it was alerted to the presence of another plane. According to one report, the two aircraft

BY PHILIP THORNTON Transport Correspondent

instructed the BA plane to "climb - climb now", while the system in the United aircraft said: "Descend - descend now." It is understood that the BA

aircraft was ordered to circle while waiting to land and was somehow put on the same flight altitude as the United plane. Neither the Civil Aviation Authority nor the airlines were able to confirm that.

A BA spokeswoman said: "As we were about to start the were just four seconds apart descent, the pilot received inwhen its onboard Traffic Colli- structions from air traffic consion Avoidance System (TCAS) troi to turn right off course and

descend. At the same time our TCAS gave us advance notice that there was another aircraft in the vicinity." She said the pilot landed safely at Gatwick.

had happened," she said. United Airlines confirmed that a Boeing 777 carrying 19 passengers from Amsterdam was involved in the near-miss

or "airprox" as it was flying into Heathrow en route to Los Angeles. The CAA said the incident would be fully investigated by the independent UK Airprox Board.

useful conclusions.

Government refused to coun-

tenance changes to the trials

even after government-spon-

sored research suggested the

precautions are inadequate.

The CAA said there were an average of 41 incidents in con-

trolled UK airspace every year. have taken place in 1996, but

In February, a Boeing 737 came within 100ft of a Gulf-"The passengers would have been unaware that anything stream IV business iet over Essex. In July 1997, a Boeing 747 and a Gulfstream IV were involved in a near-miss over Lambourne, Essex, while a BA Boeing 737 and a Virgin Express Boeing 757 came within 200ft of each other in dense log over

> The main air traffic control centre at West Drayton, west London, is due to be replaced by a £340m centre at Swanwick in Hampshire, to increase ca-

Heathrow in August 1997.

of which 80 per cent were computer software problems shown to have involved no risk. have put the opening date back

to 2001-02. The Public and Commercial Services Union, which represents controllers, called on the Government to put on hold its plans to sell of 51 per cent of National Air Traffic Control Services. Barry Reamsbottom, the union's joint general secretary, said: "The latest near-miss shows that the current system is dangerously overstretched."

The near-miss has highlighted the importance of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS), of which TCAS pacity. The transfer should is one version. From 1 January industry."

2000, ACAS will become obligatory in European airspace.

There was some doubt about

Transport Intelligence, said: "TCAS is very much a last-ditch system - to be used when all else fails. The system has worked very well and is generally accepted in the aviation

GM crop trials go ahead

back down yesterday on its plans for "farm-scale" trials of genetically modified (GM) crops, despite evidence released this week that the State for Agriculture, rejected

THE GOVERNMENT refused to By Charles Arthur Technology Editor

> than thought - 2.5 miles. Jeff Rooker, the Minister of

plants' pollen can travel further suggestions that the Depart-Why Not Improve Your English?

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ment for the Environment should alter its approach to the trials, which will involve plant-

ment in an arson attack in which a mother and her two daughters ing field-sized areas with GM died walked free from court crops to investigate their effect yesterday.

on the surrounding ecology. After two days of legal ar-Yet only three sites will be gument at Bristol Crown Court. a judge decided that Donna planted this year, which some scientists say is too few to draw Clarke should not face a retrial. The retrial had been ordered Michael Meacher, the Enviby the Court of Appeal earlier ronment minister, said up to 20 this year when it quashed her sites are planned and the trials original conviction for arson will take up to four years. The with intent to endanger life.

As she was led away from court yesterday, Ms Clarke. 28. said: "I am innocent."

A WOMAN convicted of involve- BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Arson case woman freed

pieces. This is what we have been waiting for for three years. My sympathies are with the family of Diane Jones who died. They have not got justice.

"Someone out there knows who is responsible and knows the pain they have caused. So much damage has been caused over the past three years. We are trying to rebuild our lives and today's verdict is a start."

The case relates to an arson attack on the home of Diane Jones on the rundown Gurnos Earlier, her mother Christine estate in south Wales, in the au-Clarke said: "I feel I am in turn of 1995. The fire was start-

ed by petrol being poured through the letter-box of her home and then ignited. Mrs Jones and her daughters, Shauna, two, and Sarah-Jane, 13 months, were killed in the blaze.

Yesterday in court, the judge, Mr Justice Alliott, said the case should lie on the file. He said that to proceed further would be to put the defendant in double jeopardy - meaning she could not be tried twice essentially for the same offences.

The move follows the decision last February to free Ms Clarke's aunt, Annette Hewins, who had also been convicted in 1997 of involvement in the attack.

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THE INDEPENDENT Saturday 17 April 1999

Day our heritage went down the slipway

THE HISTORY of modern shipping and shipbuilding began on the Clyde when Henry Bell launched his Comet in 1812; or so I was taught at school at a time when industrial patriotism hadn't been complicated by a more universalist view of human achievement.

The Comet was a ship with an engine, not the first but certainly, until she was wrecked. the most successful of the early experiments to propel ships by steam rather than by sails filled with the unpredictable wind. Since then, the shipyards of the Clyde have built around 35,000 ships.

At the beginning of this century they launched a quarter of the world's tonnage. In 1908, a peak year, 569 hulls slipped from the stocks and into the river, to be towed by tugs to fitting-out basins and there equipped with engines, masts, unnels and first-class crockery (569! an incredible thought subtract the year's Sundays and holidays and that's an though the launchings were probably bunched to take advantage of suitable tides; how wonderful it would have been to sail down river. through Auden's "glade of

cranes", on such a day). Clyde was the most eminent shipbuilding river on earth. Yesterday, when the Crystal Ocean went down the slipway at Kvaerner's yard in Govan, a large piece of world history rupt. It had a full order-book. may have reached its full stop. Kvaerner, a Norwegian multinational, is pulling out of heavy engineering in Britain. Ships can be built much more cheaply in the (sometimes heavily-subsidised) yards of the Far East. Last Tuesday the Govan yard was put up for sale.

It isn't quite the last on the Clyde - another across the river builds the occasional warship and another down- London and got a good deal. stream, in Port Glasgow still turns out a few small ferries and tugs - but there will be no doubting the significance of its the final end of empire (despite some pink dots on the map which remain), then Govan will mark the finish, equally delayed, of Clyde shipbuilding.

We have been here before,

NOTEBOOK



of course, and often: on the Tyne, on the Tees, on the Wear and the Mersey. Last week in force" was set up to find a buyer, the 1,200 workers at the yard have promised a fighting fence might come to the rescue with an order; and the coming Scottish elections will handicap the avowed "hands-Away from the brave public statements, however, optimism is hard to find. The suraverage of two every day, prising thing is that Clyde long. Left solely to the balance sheet, Govan would have closed in the Sixties when many other yards did.

For more than a century, the ers' deputation to Westminster on the night train from Glasbut it had priced too low and the yard, like all yards then, demarcation disputes. The men – I remember one or two wore flat-caps - posed in front of their carriage. Flashbulbs popped from the Daily Record. Glasgow Herald, the Evening Times and the Evening Citizen. Thus Glasgow lobbied

government loans and the capital of a few well-meaning Scottish entrepreneurs. Work at the closure. If Hong Kong marked yard was reorganised and remanaged, the so-called workers that they were all (as it were) "in the same boat", via speeches at many mass meet-



Glasgow a Government "taskcampaign; the Ministry of Deshipbuilding has persisted so One of my first jobs as a

reporter was to see off a workgow Central in the autumn of 1965. They were from Fairfield's, the yard now owned by Kvaerner. Fairfield's was bankwas dogged by infamous the Scottish Daily Express, the

Fairfield's was saved by "Fairfield Experiment" in which management stressed to



'Crystal Ocean', the last vessel to leave the Govan yard under Kvaerner's ownership, glides into the Clyde yesterday ings at the old Govan Lyceum. It worked for a while, and then came a procession of recurring difficulties and temporary solutions with names which now seem as distant as Henry Bell's: the Geddes report on the future of British shipbuilding; the amalgamation of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders;

The night carriages to London filled with more deputations. Sometimes special trains had to be hired to cope with the numbers. On one of these, taking workers to a march on Westminster, I was trying to shed the image of a representative of the capitalist press by explaining to a John Brown's apprentice that the Sunday Times, the paper I then worked for, could be seen as "left-wing".

work-in".

incredulously to another man walking down the corridor. "Here Jimmy, here's a man who thinks the Sunday Times is left-wing."

The other man was Jimmy

Reid, the work-in's most celebrated leader and a communist. He smiled kindly but sardonically. How was he or I John Brown's yard; the UCS to know that one day, shipbuilding and communism abandoned, he would write a regular column for The Sun? But then again who, in 1971, could have foreseen the future of Glasgow as a heritage centre. unless that heritage was shipbuilding, prolonged (as it was for a time) by a state which saw no alternative?

AND SO you might argue, as many do, that bailing out Govan with open or hidden The apprentice called subsidies is simply an expen- save Govan from closure.

sive means of prolonging an irrelevant past. What, after all, did Mr Reid and his colleagues achieve? The work-in fought to secure 13,000 jobs; 28 years later, there are 1,200 left. A free global economy means you buy from the cheapest supplier. The Clyde is a narrow and inconvenient

river. Best to call it a day. This argument is difficult to counter. Some facts can be summoned against it. European yards with costs at least as high manage to survive in Finland, Germany and Italy. And the architecture of Charles Rennie Mackintosh can't employ every adult in Glasgow, shrunken city though it is. Ultimately, though, sentiment lurks behind the words of all those, other than political opportunists and the people directly affected, who want to child I was hardly a member of

I freely admit to sentiment. At other times and places it's called the national will. In this guise, the political expression of sentiment has kept thousands of small farmers throughout Europe in money and work. The milk lake, the butter hill, the meat mountain, the Greek olive caverns - all the useless by-products of sentiment. They may not last, but

the going has been good for

some time now. Oddly, Britain is no longer sentimental (or not purposefully sentimental) about one of its own great sources of identity: ships and the sea. Not long ago we were rather good at them - how suddenly and swiftly they seem to have vanished from our everyday culture like the sailor from the Player's cigarette packet. As a a seafaring family, but ships in

one way or another always cropped up in our lives. People - friends, relatives,

neighbours, even my dad for a year or two - "went to sea", or worked like my uncle in a marine-engine shop. At school, I consulted careers pamphlets for apprenticeships with Ellerman Line, Clan Line, Ben Line, Furness Withy. It was a routine prospect and, though I never fulfilled it, I grew up loving ships, which seemed and still seem to me some of the most

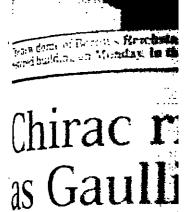
beautiful objects ever made. Memory is a curse. History has hung too heavy on us for too long. Still, when you next see those empty Govan slipways on the television news. think of the fine and useful artefacts that have been sent down them since a Glaswegian called John Elder laid out his shipvard there in 1865, over the land of a riverside villa, Fairfield, once owned by the Glasgow gentry. Four fast steamers for the American Confederacy, built to run the blockade imposed by the Civil War, were the first into the river.

Thereafter, a century-long stream of Cunard and Canadian Pacific liners, freighters, cruisers, battleships, steam yachts, destroyers, all with smooth lovely shapes made to cut through water.

The oddest thing that Fairfield ever made is especially worth remembering the royal yacht Livodio for Tsar Alexander II. "The apotheosis of oddity," was how George Blake, the Clyde's greatest historian, described the *Livadia*, and one can certainly see what he meant. The Tsar (a) hated seasickness, and (b) loved billiards. The Russian navy's chief architect, Admiral Popoff, came up with the solution of a royal yacht itself was ringed by a steel raft over which rough seas would break "rendering the inner structure stable in any weather". The craftsmen at Fairfield, then thought to be the best in the world, got the commission and in 1880 the three-funnelled Livadia was launched in a fever of local interest - the river's banks were reported to have been packed with spectators. Of course, it didn't work,

which was no surprise in Govan. The Livadia rocked and staggered its way to the Black Sea, proving, in the words of George Blake, that "neither accurate billiards at sea nor the abolition of seasickness was yet in clear prospect." As for the Tsar himself, he was killed by a Nihilist bomb the next year and seems never to have stepped on board. On the Clyde the ship became remembered for something the Grand Duke Alexis had said in his speech at the launch. "Glasgow", said the Grand Duke, in words of sincerest praise. "... Glasgow is the centre of the intelligence of England."

So it once was. The empty slips at Govan may be inevitable, and their conversion to parkland predictable, but surely this can make nobody happy. I hope Govan survives to make ships.



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The state of the s

Swan Hunter could save hundreds of Govan jobs HOPES ROSE last night that the By JACK O'SULLIVAN to win an important Royal Navy than major tankers. In the Scotland Correspondent Kvaerner Govan shipyard on longer run, we are also interested in a business converting ships into oil rigs, but with the UK's largest merchant Hunter, saving hundreds of shipping yard, employing 1,200 the price of oil as it is, that is not for now."

Clydeside may be purchased by the Tyneside shipbuilders Swan jobs threatened by the yard's possible closure.

As about 1,000 local people watched the launch of one of Kvaerner's last ships at the yard, Jaap Kroese, the owner of Swan Hunter, met a govern- est in the yard had come from ment-appointed task force charged with finding a rescue package.

Norman Brownell, Swan Hunter's commercial director. said the company was part of a consortium of continental ed in buying the Govan facility. tres and 120 metres long, rather

IN BRIEF

THE ONLY war criminal to be convicted in Britain began

an appeal yesterday against his sentence for murdering Jews in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. Martin Lee.

solicitor for Anthony Sawoniuk, 78, started the process by

War criminal launches appeal

lodging papers with the Central Criminal Court, a

fortnight after his client was given two life sentences.

General Pinochet arrested again

THE FORMER Chilean dictator, General Augusto Pinochet,

already under house arrest, was arrested again yesterday

in the latest twist in the legal battle to extradite him to

Soain to face torture charges. The re-arrest was

spokesman from Scotland Yard said last night.

necessary to make lawful his continued detention, a

people. The fact that we are here shows how serious we are," said Mr Brownell before meeting Sir Gavin Laird, head of the task force. Sir Gavin said that expressions of interseveral quarters.

Mr Brownell declined to name other members of his consortium, "We have a number of different proposals. We are interested, for example, in the market for building and British investors interest- smaller ships between 100 me-

It is understood that the consortium would expect to employ about 500 people at Govan, so large-scale redundancies would still be required. Mr Brownell said: "Let's not build up hopes of thousands of jobs being saved, when that may not be possible."

Swan Hunter at Wallsend has been a success story since Mr Kroese, a Dutch entrepreneur, bought the yard in 1995 for £4m after it had gone into receivership following its failure

helicopter carrier contract. Since the purchase, the yard has concentrated on decommissioning work for the oil and

gas industry and on converting ships into oil platforms. Earlier this year plans began for a return to shipbuilding at the yard. The desperate situation at Kvaerner Govan was high-

lighted by yesterday's launch of the Crystal Ocean, a supply vessel for North Sea oil rigs. The launch was attended by busloads of children from nearby Govan Primary School; most of their fathers work at the yard.

The only remaining shipbuilding project in the yard is the hull for an icebreaker.

Monet exhibition to open all night

THE ROYAL Academy of Arts BY CLARE GARNER in London is to stay open all night tonight - the first time that a gallery in Britain has allowed round-the-clock access.

The marathon 34-hour opening - from 8am today to 6pm tomorrow - marks the end of the blockbusting "Monet in the 20th Century" exhibition.

However, anyone hoping that by pitching up in the middle of the night they will be able to view the paintings in peace will be in for a shock. More than 5,000 tickets have already been pre-booked for the time slots between 10pm tonight to 8am tomorrow and a further 3,000 will be available on the door. For those wanting to secure a lastminute ticket, the least popular period is likely to be between lam and 6am.

The show includes paintings of the gardens and lify pond at Monet's home in Giverny, plus views of Venice and the Thames. More than 8,000 people a day have visited the exhibition, an estimated total of 750,000, the highest attendance at an exhibition in Britain. Tick-



available on the door tonight

ets have been sold for £9 each - the highest admission price ever to be charged.

A spokeswoman for the academy said: "I'm a little bit surprised by the interest in 24-hour opening, but people are aware that if they book they will definitely get to see the exhibition. I think there's a chance that it will sell out. It will be interesting to see whether

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ducation News says, "It's radically different there are so many leatures about it that recommend it to the learner." The Bankers nstitute of New Zealand says, "Accelerated Learning is the new competitive weapon."

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Australian TV news reported "Astonishing fluency." They did two years work in three

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Italian 🖂 ! Railtrack probes two near misses TWO NEAR-MISS rail incidents, including one where a commuter train nearly crashed head-on with another processed only after I decide to keep my course) service, were being investigated by Railtrack yesterday. Cree fall payment of £99 (plus £5.50 Parcel force Delivery)-Both incidents involved Thames Trains' services. One incident was at Blackwater station, Surrey, on 1 April; the second was in Oxfordshire on 14 April. Murder hunt for missing prisoner DETECTIVES HUNTING the killer of a 38-year-old woman in Chaddesden, Derby, yesterday issued an appeal for the whereabouts of Mark Leicester, 37, who is "unlawfully at large" from an open prison. Girl killed with soldier's souvenir A FORMER SAS soldier killed his ex-girlfriend with a gun he took from the Gulf War, Leeds Crown Court heard vesterday, Thomas Shanks, 48, of Pontefract, denies

> murdering Vickie Fletcher, 21, last May but has admitted manslaughter. The case was adjourned until Monday. المحدد من الامل

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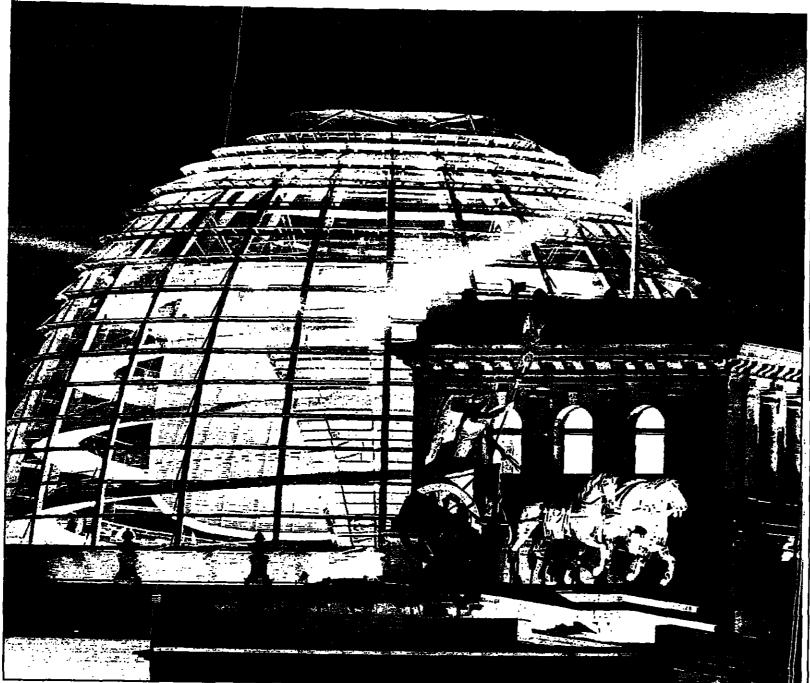
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The new dome of Berlin's Reichstag is fully illuminated inside and out for the first time. Germany's parliament begins its first session in the restored building on Monday. In the foreground is the Quadriga, the equestrian statue on top of the Brandenburg Gate

Lebanon fury at 'invasion' by Israelis

VISITING JOURNALISTS came By PATRICK COCKBURN under fire yesterday from the village of Arnoun in southern Lebanon after it was taken over by Israeli forces and their allied militia, the South Lebanon Army. A ricocheting bullet wounded one of the reporters.

The incident came as Lebanon's prime minister appealed to the UN, the US and France to intervene against Israel's expansion of its occupation zone in southern i ebanon.

It follows Israel's decision to take over the village, which was previously outside the zone in southern Lebanon long occupied by the Israeli army.

The remaining Lebanese residents left as Israeli troops surrounded Arnoun with a barbed wire fence and cut off electricity and water to houses.

Israel says a unit of its soldiers left Arnoun yesterday leaving a South Lebanon Army (SLA) detachment behind. This implies that it was the SLA who opened fire on the journalists.

Arnoun has been at the centre of a confrontation between Israel and the Lebanese government since Israel first tried in Jerusalem

in February to seal off the village, claiming it was used by Lebanese Islamic Hizbollah guerrillas against its nearby position at Castle Beaufort.

Most of its 2,000 inhabitants had already fled because of Israeli artillery fire. Two dozen bouses were blown up by Israeli

Lebanese students responded with mass demonstrations, during which they tore down barbed wire and danced in the village square singing patriotic Lebanese songs.

Israel claims that Hizbollah then returned to the village laying roadside bombs. Earlier this week Sergeant Major Noam Barnea was killed during

a bomb disposal operation. Israel says the Lebanese government ignored requests to take security control of Armoun and it has no choice but

A Lebanese minister said: "The Lebanese army is not going to be a defensive curtain for the Israeli enemy." On Wednesday an Israeli armoured patrol re-entered the Israel.

village and searched it for guer rillas. In a statement yesterday the Israeli army said: "The inhabitants of the village of Arnoun will be permitted monitored entrance and exit through a pedestrian passage."

However, the reporters who tried to enter Arnoun and came under fire from smoke grenades and live rounds, said the last villagers were abandoning their homes. Also at issue in the dispute

over Armoun is the future of the diplomatic understanding which ended "Grapes of Wrath", the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon in 1996.

Under this, Israel is not allowed to fire into inhabited areas or Hizbollah to fire out of them or into Israel

Moshe Arens, the newly appointed Israeli Defence Minister, rejected Lebanese protests that Israel had "invaded" Arnoun. This internationally monitored agreement worked in favour of the guerrillas and should be abandoned, he said. If it is, then the war in southern Lebanon is likely to escalate and Hizbollah resume firing katyusha rockets into northern

Chirac rival resigns as Gaullists fall out

BY JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

ONLY THE French centre-right could manage to fall out savagely in the middle of a war and the quarrel have nothing to do with the war. Or nothing much to do with it.

Philippe Séguin, president of the Gaullist RPR, resigned yesterday with a bitter attack on the party's founder his long-ime colleague, and rival. Jacques Chirac. He accused the President, in effect, of plotting with rivals behind his back and failing to support their own party's campaign for the European elections in June.

Although Mr Séguin has been notably faint in public in his support for French involvement in the Balkans war, the Gaullist leader made no reference to the conflict in his brutally worded, resignation letter. The real quarrel is personal, tactical and electoral.

The parties of the French centre-right - the Gaullists, the centrist UDF and the Démocratie right-wing Libérale – have been in self-destructive disarray since President Chirac called and lost an early parliamentary election two years ago. They failed to agree a common platform for the European elections, threatening Mr Chirac's hopes of uniting the right for his own The head of the "Friends of lose no sleep at all.

laziz Bouteflika, the army-

backed candidate, won his

empty and inevitable victory in

Thursday's Presidential elec-

tion from which all his rivals

istry declared the former for-

eign minister the winner with

almost 74 per cent of the vote.

riot police sealed off a square

in central Algiers, ahead of a

demonstration of supporters

of the six opposition candi-

dates who pulled out on

Hours after the Interior Min-

had withdrawn in protest.



Seguin: A bitter attack on Chirac over Europe

presidential re-election cam-

paign in 2002. The pro-European UDF, under its new leader, Fran-

cois Bayrou, refused to join a common European election platform with the Gaullists while Mr Séguin - a partially recanted Eurosceptic - was leader of the campaign. Mr Séguin, 56 next week, who still harbours presidential ambitions of his own, refused to stand aside Mr Séguin was also furious with President Chirac for taking a soft line on domestic reforms proposed by the centre-left government of Lionel Jospin.

In recent weeks, relations between Mr Séguin and President Chirac have collapsed.

Algeria uneasy after

Jacques Chirac" said that the President's supporters did not have to vote for the RPR in the European poll. They could also vote for Mr Bayrou's Eurofederalist UDF or a Eurosceptic right-wing list.

It made Chirac pro-Euro pean federalism and anti-federal at the same time. It stabbed Mr Séguin in the back. But it had one great virtue. It kept open President Chirac's links with the wider centreright that he will need in his campaign in 2002.

Mr Seguin asked President Chirac to disavow this statement; instead he had a highprofile meeting with Mr Bayrou. Séguin supporters believe that this was part of a deliberate strategy to force him to resign and then create a common, centre-right list for the European election after all. If so, it worked.

Mr Seguin may now emerge as a public opponent of the Balkans war, even though opinion polls are hugely in favour and give almost 80 per cent backing to President Chirac's conduct of the campaign. He may also stand against President Chirac in 2002. But the likelihood is that his career as a serious contender in French politics is finished: something that will cause the President of the Republic to

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Wednesday evening, barely 12 hours before the polls opened. In the event, only about 500 people attended the rally. Despite saying he would take office only if he won a solid majority after a convincing turnout, Mr Bouteflika, 63. was expected to take over from the President Liamine Zeroual a week after the result had been confirmed by the Constitution-

Far more controversial than

AN UNEASY calm prevailed in BY EILEEN BYRNE Algeria last night after Abde- in Algiers

one-man election

AND RUPERT CORNWELL was the turnout, a more reliable

indicator of possible political trouble to come. Although the Interior Ministry said 60 per cent of the 17.5 million eligible electors had voted, the true figure is likely to have been considerably lower. According to Ahmed Taleb

Ibrahimi, a former candidate who has the backing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the outcome was a sham. He claimed that he and the five other candidates who had pulled out had been notified by the authorities that ballot rigging on a massive scale was taking place. The true turnout was only 25 per cent, Mr Ibrahimi alleged. "I refused to take part in an immoral process the

The Interior Minister, Abdelmalek Sellal, said the election had been "entirely legitimate", and accused the six his margin of support, however, of imperilling Algeria's return hands of the army.

people knew was a fraud."

to political normality. He appealed to the outside world to recognise the result.

France, the former colonial power and home to a large Algerian community, voiced its concern, while human rights organisations and other groups demanded a re-run of the election - this time with international observers to make sure proceedings were clean.

The outcome was a "bitter revenge" for Mr Bouteflika, the French daily Le Monde said, rather than the triumphant comeback he had hoped for after 20 years in political exile. Most important now will be the reaction of the Islamic radicals.

The cancellation in 1992 of elections the FIS seemed certain to win ushered in seven years of civil war, in which 70,000 people died. With violence on the wane. it was hoped that this election would open the door to national reconciliation. Instead it has generated cynicism and resignation, underlining how ultimate power remains in the

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Militias bring new fear to Timor

TENSIONS ARE rising in the East Timorese capital, Dili, as in Dili thousands of pro-Indonesian militiamen pour in for a show of force today. At dusk yesterday the streets were empty as people hurried home to avoid militia patrols, some escorted by Indonesian soldiers.

Three hundred men, armed with sticks, were on parade outside the governor's office. A man in a scarlet shell-suit was inspecting them from the back of a jeep. These men were preparing to defend Indonesian rule. All of them are

The man on the jeep, Eurico Guterres, leads one of several pro-Indonesian militias which have sprung up in East Timor since late last year. The militiamen say they want to defend society against the violence of pro-independence guerrillas. Many people believe they are paid stooges of the Indonesian army.

Questioned by reporters, Mr populist rant against the Timorese political elite, particularly those leaders who support independence. "They go to Macao or America and get the pretty girls and come back with enough to buy a Feroza or a Vitara [types of car], then they say they're pro-independence. The people must seize all of them and bring them to justice."

Timorese integration with Indonesia has been threatened by the militias, and some people now hang the red-and-white flag of Indonesia outside their houses to try to ward off the

The militias draw support from some of the thousands of Timorese civil servants and businessmen with a vested interest in Indonesian rule, imposed by force in 1975. Some of these men had relatives murdered by left-wing Timorese guerrillas at that time. They are afraid that after independence,

they may be targeted again. "[The militias] have to take over Dili, because this is where all the people of influence are, said Manuel Carrascalao, a local grandee who used to support Indonesian rule but now advocates independence.

Mr Carrascalao is one of the few spokesmen for inde-Guterres' answers turn into a pendence who has not gone underground. He spends the time in his shuttered villa in Dili. He seems unworried by the threats. "I don't think they can kill me that easily," he says.

The militiamen say they are volunteers, defending East Timor from the guerrillas of the detained independence leader, Xanana Gusmao. Two of their men were kidnapped from a Dili Anyone seen as an enemy of bus terminal on 5 April and



Members of a pro-Indonesian militia parading in Dili before today's mass show of force against those in East Timor who want independence

have not been seen since, they

But if they are on the side of the people, why is everyone ter-rified of them? The people who are afraid are those who are guilty," says a young militia officer, standing next to Mr Guterres. "If they're not guilty. why are they afraid?"

Some East Timorese believe many of the militiamen were forced to sign up. "They are given drugs so that they don't even know who their parents are," said one hotel worker in Dili.

The militias have been blamed for dozens of killings this year as Indonesia and Por-

tugal, the former colonial power, discussed East Timor's future with the United Nations. The East Timorese were due to vote on independence in July.

The worse the violence, the less chance the vote will go ahead. This would suit nationalist elements within the army which do not want to see East arriliaries who will work with the

Timor break away. The worst reported atrocity was in Liquica, west of Dili, 10 days ago, where as many as 50 people may have been murdered by militiamen. The official death toll is seven.

The Indonesian army says

police to keep public order. Colonel Tono Suratman, the local commander, said: "For 23 years we've worked to keep East Timor secure. But as you know, there aren't enough police." But one militia officer said:

"We're not working for the government. We're here to defend

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more forcefully. In a statement issued this week, he called on people to "destroy the disturbers of integration (with Indonesia) to their very roots". For anyone who does not

support Indonesian rule in East Timor, the message is

Ethiopian air raid ends lull in border war

WIND CHIMES on top of the BY ALEXANDER LAST Orthodox church still jangled as old women kissed the remains of the building blasted by Ethiopian aircraft in fresh fight-

ing in a year-long border war Old sheets of iron from the church roof lay twisted on the ground in the rubble of a badlydamaged outer wall. Around the church were four craters where bombs had fallen.

"The church is a place of God, of peace, for the people. Why do they hit our church?" said the priest as he surveyed the

Adi Keih, 70 miles south of the capital, Asmara, was one of three towns well inside Eritrean territory hit in a co-ordinated Ethiopian air attack at lunchtime on Thursday. Eleven people were injured in the Adi Keih attack.

The Ethiopian government said it had targeted only military sites, but there was no sign of strategic targets around the church at Adi Keih.

The nearest official building was the school, where pupils were changing classrooms when two MiG fighter jets flew over the town at around 12.30pm, residents said. Ten students were among the

wounded, hospital workers said.

in Adi Keih, Eritrea

Eritrean foreign ministry had re-

ported shortly after the bomb-"Many [wounded] are suf-

fering from extensive soft tissue loss, and some bone fractures which needed surgical work," said Dr Abraham Tekle. The bomb strikes ended two

weeks of relative calm in a year-long conflict in which tens of thousands have died, mainly in trench warfare along the front line. The Ethiopian government

said it also hit the main military camp at Sawa in north-western Eritrea on Thursday and a military target in the southern town of Mendefera.

Ethiopian television ran footage on Thursday showing smoke billowing from bomb sites the army said were in

Adi Keih had been a garrison town for the Zalambessa front which lies 40 miles to the south. But since January nearly all troops have moved to the border as tensions rose before fighting erupted again on 6 February. A few soldiers ambled through town on Thursday, but there were no signs of a large although none were killed as the military presence. (Reuters)

Fake Net report man arrested

ONE WEEK after a bogus In- BY ANDREW GUMBEL ternet posting caused the price of a Californian technology company to fluctuate wildly on the stock exchange, federal agents said vesterday they had identified the culprit as a midlevel engineer who they believe sought to manipulate the price of his company's shares.

Gary Dale Hoke, who worked for the North Carolina office of PairGain Technologies, was arrested at home in Raleigh, and charged with securities fraud. He was released on bail of \$50,000 (£31,000) after agreeing to appear in federal court in Los Angeles, where the company is based.

The Internet posting was report from Bloom .- rg. the fi-fake posting.

in Los Angeles

nancial information provider, in which it was said that PairGain had agreed to a takeover bid from an Israeli company, ECI Telecom. PairGain's share price jumped from \$8.50 to \$11.125 before falling after the

hoax was revealed. It was the second time in less than two weeks that federal agents have tracked an online troublemaker, following the arrest of a New Jersey man believed to be behind the Melissa virus which flooded hundreds of thousands of computers with

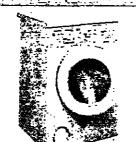
Mr Hoke was not formally dressed up to look like a news accused of profiting from his



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Fighting the wife burners of Pakistan

A WEEK IN THE LIFE

SHAHNAZ BOKHARI, WOMEN'S CAMPAIGNER

SHAHNAZ BOKHARI is a heroine. She doesn't look it with her round, smiling face, glasses and long, brown hair - more like a happy version of Hattie Jacques - but, in fact, she is a woman of iron, of stone and

Fire is her speciality. Shahnaz Bokhari is waging a onewoman war to fight the violence and discrimination that millions of women face in Pakexist society, and to stamp out its most horrific manifestation - wife-burning. Every

getting them - and other frightened, scared, helpless women - medical help, legal assistance, shelter, protection and eventually, she hopes, justice.

LAST FRIDAY, Ms Bokhari dealt with the case of Safiya, a 16-year-old who fled her home after her husband told her to work as a prostitute and attacked her when she refused. When she went to her family, her husband bribed the police to raid their home to force her return. This took place in the capital, Islamabad, where Ms Bokhari is based. Islamabad is a purpose-built city where the rich come to do business with the politicians and bureaucrats

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who live in the huge, houses that line its broad, leafy streets. Ms Bokhari contacted the second in command of the city police. He reprimanded the officers involved and assured her they would not misbehave

ON SATURDAY, she was contacting the Islamabad police again, this time about a 15-yearold servant who had been savagely gang-raped by her employer's three sons.

The afternoon was spent counselling another girl who had effectively been abducted and hidden from her family for two years by her husband. Ms Bokhari was a clinical

WARRESCREEN TY'S

SAVE UP TO CICO ON WICHSCREEN PROCESSEY



psychologist before starting the Progressive Women's Association (PWA) 10 years ago. She has four children of her own, looks after two more and says her age is "over 40"

ON SUNDAY, a call came in her relatives said was an accifrom the nearby city of dent. Ms Bokhari was suspi-Rawalpindi. Tahira - a young girl who had been married for only three months - had suffered 89 per cent burns in what

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cious and sent a team to investigate. Later she went to the hospital to see another "accident" victim and record a

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statement. The girl died early on Monday.

Ms Bokhari says that almost all the 87 "stove-burst" cases recorded at the two major local hospitals between September and December last year were deliberate attacks. Usually the motivation is fi-

nancial – the women have not paid enough of a dowry, or their relatives are becoming a burden, or simply that their husbands have received what they consider better offers.

Very few of those who have committed the 1,600 attacks on wives logged by the PWA in the past 10 years have been brought to justice.

MONDAY SAW more of the same. Ms Bokhari usually gets up at around 6.30am and is at her computer – her office is a room in her house - within minutes. The PWA is opening its first secure home for women in two weeks and funds are needed desperately. Many women just turn up at Ms Bokhari's door.

Moments before her interview with The Independent, a young woman had arrived with two children, no food and no shelter. Ms Bokhari spent the next half-hour raising a bag full—late after the bus broke down of cast-off clothes and 200 ru- The breakdown had one adpees (£3) from neighbours. The vantage, Ms Bokhari said. She PWA, as well as providing im- got to watch some of an Indian mediate aid to victims of do- feature film - the first movie she mestic violence, also tries to had watched in years.

Subira, a beautiful young woman with horrific burns who is living with Ms Bokhari, was first taught sewing and is now learning to use computers. It is hard going, Ms Bokhari says, as Subira, like most of the victims who come to her has almost no education. To Ms Bokhari, this

is the crux of the problem. "The social system gives nothing to women," she says. "They leave them dumb from the day they were born. She is expected to be mentally alert but they keep her behind bars.

"Violence against women is a global issue but there is a support system in the West so a woman can get justice or protection. Here, if a woman goes to a police station they just stare at her with their mouths open. If she wants a divorce from her idiot husband she can't get it."

ON TUESDAY, Ms Bokhari heard that her grandmother had died so she travelled to Lahore - 250 miles away - to deal with the arrangements.

All the time, she was sorting out a court appearance later in the week and details of a survey on working children.

On Wednesday, she got back

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Kurds take campaign to ballot box

WE JUST want them to give up BY JUSTIN HUGGLER the idea that this country belongs only to the Turks," said Beli Haydar Gulec, of the Peoparties must win 10 per cent of ple's Democracy Party the national vote to qualify. But (Hadep). As the new wave of it is expected to win key mu-Kurdish violence engulfing nicipalities in the south-east. Turkey continues, Hadep is taking the campaign for Kurdish rights to the ballot box.

Tight security is expected tomorrow as Turkey holds elec- his predecessor was jailed for tions. Several people have died in bomb attacks across the country since the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan was Party. The Islamists emerged as captured in February, and Mr the largest group in parliament Ocalan's Kurdish Workers after the last election, but their Party (PKK) has vowed to step up its campaign of terror and government by the military and warned tourists to stay away.

Hadep says it shares the aims of the PKK but campaigns Turkey's chief prosecutor has sought to have the party exseparate case to have the party votes as Virtue. closed continues. The banning

riots and 300 arrests.

Hadep is not the only party stirring up controversy ahead of the polls. Ali Mufit Gurtune, who became mayor of Istanbul when reading an Islamic poem at a political rally, is trying to win reelection for the Islamist Virtue Welfare Party was forced from closed by the courts for endan-Six Turkish soldiers and 18 gering Turkey's secular con-PKK guerrillas were killed in stitution. Now the Islamists are fresh clashes yesterday in the trying to convince the voters Rurdish dominated south-east. and the generals that their new Virtue party is not a threat.

Unofficial opinion polls indipeacefully. But democracy has cate that support for Virtue its limits in Turkey. Twice, may be slipping. The Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, is riding a wave of popularity after cluded from polls on the the capture of Mr Ocalan His grounds that it was linked to the leftist party, which now holds PKK. While the courts ruled only a small number of seats, that Hadep could take part, a is expected to win as many

But the real problems will of a rally for the party in Di-start after the voting. With no yarbakir, the administrative party likely to win a majority the centre of the south-east, led to difficulty will be in forming a coalition. The military makes it Hadep is unlikely to win any clear that it will oppose any seats in parliament, because coalition including Virtue.

FERGAL KEANE



These are days when history is being twisted and abused

IN-THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 3

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

Award for 'Independent' writer



THE INDEPENDENT'S Lea Paterson (pictured) has been named "Young Financial Journalist of the Year" in the annual Wincott Awards, Britain's premier awards for financial and business journalism. The judges were impressed by her ability to move fluently from reportage to commentary and back

again on subjects as

diverse as the future of banking and the Japanese economy. Peter Martin of the Financial Times was named "Senior Financial Journalist of the Year", while Sunday Business was voted as the "Financial Journal of the Year". In its 12-year history, The Independent has twice won the award for "Financial Journal of

BRIEFING

Kosovo fears drive euro down

THE EURO tumbled to new lows against the dollar and sterling amid growing fears over an escalation of the Kosovo crisis. Against the pound, the European currency slipped below 66p to a new lifetime low of 65.95p, almost 9 per cent weaker than at the beginning of the year. Late on Thursday, the euro also slipped to a new low against the dollar of \$1.063, although it edged higher yesterday amid rumours in New York of possible intervention by the European Central Bank.

BT set to increase Spanish stake BRITISH TELECOM is close to increasing its stake in Airtel, the Spanish mobile phone operator, it emerged yesterday. A spokeswoman for BT said the company was leading the negotiations to buy an extra 16.28 per cent of Airtel. Earlier reports suggested the stake would cost BT, which already owns 17.8 per cent of Airtel. about \$2bn. However, BT may have to sell some of the extra shares to AirTouch, the US mobile phone operator, which also has a shareholding in Airtel.

STO	OCK MARK	ETS
SE 100	10500 TONES	NIKKE 17000
	10300	16600

INDICES						
Index	Close	Change C	hange(%)	52 wk Mgn !	2 wk low Y	
FTSE 100	5420.60	-45.50	-0.70	6539,90	4599.20	2.44
FTSE 250	5796.20	88.90	1.56	5970.90	4247.60	3.03
FTSE 350_	3068.30	10.90	-0.35	3103,00	2210,40	2.54
FTSE All Share	2969.70	-9.08	-0.31	3000.33	2143.53	2.62
FTSE SmallCap	2467.10	18.00	0.74	2793.80	1834.40	4.32
FTSE Fledgling	1340.10	8.20	0.62	1517.10	1046.20	3.83
FTSE AIM	902.70	5.30	0.59	1146.90	761.30	7,14
FTSE Eurotop 100	2977.34	-23.36	-0.78	3079.27	2018.15	1.95
FTSE Eurotop 300	1289.14	-4.25	-0.33	1332.07	880.63	1.89
Dow Jones	10466,93	-16.01	-0,15	10526.54	7400,30	1.51
Nikkel	16851.58	124.50	0.74	17166.06	12787.90	0.75
Hang Seng	12490.30	528.07	4.43	11975.65	6544.79	2.80
Dax	5155,35	-25.66	0.50	6217.83	3833.71	1.82
5&P 500	1322.10	-3.38	-0.26	1362.38	923.32	1.22
Nasdag	2513.38	-12.84	-0.51	2630.52	1357.09	0.28
Toronto 300	7027.30	. 35,21	0.50	7837.70	5320.90	1.48
Brazil Bovespa	11436.19	193.58	1.72	12249,81	4575.69	3.09
Belgium Bel20	3284.59	-36,34	-1.09	3713.21	2696.26	2,01
Amsterdam Exch	547.39	5,19	0.96	600.65	366.58	1.83
France CAC 40	4300.91	<u>-9:73</u>	-0.23	4415.00	2881.21	1.68
Milan MIB30	36554.00	-20.00	-0.06	39170.00	24175,00	1.06
Madrid Ibex 35	9777.30	-222.70	-2.23	10989.80	6869.90	1.B2
frish Overall	5312.29	-27.39	-0.51	<u> 5581.70</u>	3732.57	1.55
S Korea Comp	725.14	3.13	0.43	722.03	277.37	0.96
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UK	5.32	-2.20	5.3A	-2.16	4.52	-1.25	4.52	-1.17
US ·	5.00	-0.69	5.23	-0.62	5.19	0.39	5.55	0.32
Japan	0.15	-0.52	0.21	-0.48	1.61	-0.21	2.37	-0.06
Germany	2.63	-1.02	2.71	-1.25	3.87	-0.99	4.88	-0.53
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Euro	1,5060					-13.78c	
_	189.85					V1.25	
£ index	103.50	+0.20	108.10	S Index	108.00	-0.30	109.60
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Brent Oil (S) 14.99	-0.02	13.69	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	283.95	0.15	308.15	RP	163.70	2.10	160.33	Mar
Silver (S)	5.02	0.14	6.07	Base	Rates	5.25	7.25	Out as Sm

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SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

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RATES

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Australia (5)	2:3939	N			
Austria (schillings)	20.00	N			
Belgium (francs)	58.80	. <u>N</u>			
Canada (\$)	2,3230	N			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8396	P			
Denmark (kroner)	10,89	. <u>S</u>			
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Belgium (francs)	58.80	. New Zealand (5)
Canada (\$)	2,3230	Norway (kroner)
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8396	Portugal (escudos)
Denmark (kroner)	10.89	Saudi Arabia (rials)
inland (markka)	8.7246	Singapore (\$)
rance (francs)	9.5335	South Africa (rands)
Germany (marks)	2.8524	Spain (pesetas)
Greece (drachma)	473.65	Sweden (kronor)
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Asda shares soar on hopes of rival to Kingfisher deal

SHARES IN Asda soared yesterday as the City speculated that the supermarket group's proposed £18bn merger with Kingfisher might trigger a rival

Asda shares rose 22.25p to 198.75p, above the 198p implied level of the Kingfisher all-share deal, with analysts suggesting that overseas retailers such as Wal-Mart of the US and Carrefour of France might be interested.

Paul Smiddy, food retail analyst at Credit Lyonnais, said: "If I was an Asda shareholder I wouldn't be that happy. They (Kingfisher) are getting Asda on the cheap with an exit multiple of 20.

Under the terms of the deal, Asda shareholders will receive 0.2263 Kingfisher shares for every Asda share held. This leaves Kingfisher shareholders controlling two-thirds of the stock and Asda investors holding the remaining third. Based on Kingfisher's closing price of 875p on Thursday, the deal implies a price of 198p per Asda share, valuing the business at

Another analyst said the deal made Asda look "stunningly cheap," with Kingfisher buying a huge cash-generating machine at a discount to the market multiple.

But although some analysts were critical, the deal was broadly welcomed in the City. Analysts responded to the strategy of creating a larger pan-European retailing force. The consensus was that the merger could lead to annual cost savings of up to £100m. The synergies would come mainly from some buying gains, lower distribution costs and some cost savings at head office level.

However, both companies said there would not be signif-Asda would retain its head office in Leeds. Kinglisher's head office in central London is likely to be the beadquarters of

the enlarged group. Jonathan Pritchard, food re-

Number of employees

Market capitalisation

1998 pre-tax profit

Headquarters

1998 revenues

By NIGEL COPE **Associate City Editor**

tailing analyst at Morgan Stanley, said: "There are buying benefits but they are relatively small. This is really about 'Wal-Marting' Kingfisher. It creates a solid cash-generative grocery business at the heart of the enlarged group. It give Kingfisher a defensive, less cyclical element."

Kingfisher has been on the lookout for a major deal ever since its initial talks with Asda collapsed last May. Sir Geoff Mulcahy, its chief executive, has already struck a series of deals in Europe with the takeover of the Darty electricals business in France and the merger of B&Q with Castorama of France last year. He has also expanded the electricals business into Poland and Germany while taking B&Q to the Far East.

But recently the spectre of Wal-Mart has loomed large, with persistent reports that the US giant was keen on expanding in Britain. Woolworths is already planning to open a Big W expanded store in Edinburgh in June which will include a Burger King branch and a Peacocks clothing offer. Many were yesterday seeing the Asda merger as a means off pre-

empting a Wal-Mart invasion. The deal could run into competition problems. Because of its size it will be scrutinised by the European authorities.

Analysts said the deal could help solve Kingfisher's succession question, with Sir Geoff remaining as chief executive and Allan Leighton, Asda's highly rated chief executive, as his deputy and heir apparent.

Analysts said the deal would put a rocket under the rest of the retail sector. The deal would be negative for Marks & Spencer and Storehouse. could be hit Kingfisher shares closed 35p

lower at 840p.

Kingfisher

London

£7.45bn

£11.5bn

£629.3m

2,742

Outlook, page 20

ASDA Group

Leeds

£7.6bn

£6bn

£404.9m

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2.40m			
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Sainsbury's to axe 300 jobs at HQ

whose Mothercare business SAINSBURY'S, the UK's secondlargest supermarket chain, yesterday fell further behind its arch-rival Tesco after it unveiled an abysmal sales performance and announced plans to axe 300 jobs in a effort to cut costs.

The company said it would shed 10 per cent of the 3,000 staff at its headquarters in Blackfriars. London, at a cost of around £30m. The redundancies will yield a saving of £60m in 2000.

News of the job losses came as Sainsbury's revealed that increased competition and the failure of its "Value to Shout About" advertising campaign

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA featuring John Cleese had caused a slump in sales in the

Dino Adriano, the chief executive, admitted that the slowdown in sales growth would widen the gap with the market leader Tesco. The disappointing second half led to an increase of just 2.2 per cent in like-for-like sales over the year, compared

second half of the year.

with Tesco's 4 per cent. The last three months were particularly sluggish, with comparable sales rising 2.4 per cent, well below Tesco's 5 per

per cent.

The sales debacle meant

Sainsbury's completely missed its target of growing volumes by up to 2 per cent in 1998, posting a rise of only 0.5 per cent. Overall, total sales in the group, which includes the do-it-yourself superstores Homebase and the US chain Shaw's, rose 4.9 per cent to £16.3hn

Mr Adriano said profits for 1998 will meet market expectations of around £760m. Howsupermarket chain's troubles

cent. Excluding the effects of an will hit the 1999 figures. His comearly Easter, sales rose only 1.2 ments prompted City analysts to slash forecasts for this year by around 9 per cent to £750m.

However, the shares soared 15.25p to 390.25p on speculation that Sainsbury's could be the target of a takeover by the US giant Wal-Mart following the proposed Asda/Kingfisher tie-up.

Mr Adriano admitted the supermarket's performance was not "acceptable" and said the group would spend £30m in 1999 and 2000 to improve its sales growth. "We have to work to beever, he warned that the come leaner fitter and faster in responding to changes," he said.

Barclays is given a corporate facelift

BARCLAYS BANK is preparing BY ANDREW GARFIELD to undergo a corporate make-

over for the first time in 30 years with a new logo and brand identity, which will go on show for the first time at the group's annual meeting next Friday. Barclays' trademark eagle is

to be given a more up-to-date look and placed inside a globe, while the distinctive Barclays colour is going to be replaced by a different shade of blue. Following a successful trial

at a prototype branch in Stockport, near Manchester, earlier this year, new livery will be used for Barclays' Internet service and will start appearing in branches this summer. Barclays says that the new

identity, developed by the branding consultants Interbrand Newell & Sorrell, is Financial Editor

meant to project the change in

its culture over the past two Barclays is also aiming to use the new logo and livery to

achieve greater consistency in

NEW YORK

chief executive of Sun

computer maker faced

struggle.

SCOTT MCNEALLY, chairman and

Microsystems, warned that the

"heartbreak hill" over the next

The remarks, which followed

last week's profits warning from

Compag, rattled nerves on Wall

Street. The Dow Jones index fell

14.89 points to 1,0447.83. Sun fell

\$4 3/8 to \$56, with other computer

stocks falling in sympathy.

few months as the year 2000

looms and Asian markets

branding between operations like Barclaycard, Connect debit cards, and Barclays Capital, the bond-broking arm.

However, Barclays insists that the bank is not going down the road pursued by HSBC, which last year started to phase out Midland Bank as part of a global rebranding in which names of local operations are being eliminated.

Barclays has adopted a lowkey approach to the facelift. The group has avoided big publicity stunts along the lines of the £300m Pepsi rebrand several years ago and is keen to avoid charges of waste.

Instead, staff have been briefed and senior managers have been shown the logo and trademark at internal conferences over the past few weeks.

bid battle hots up

war for Albright & Wilson, the struggling UK chemicals group, intensified yesterday when Albemarie, the US chemicals company struck back against French competition with a 20 per cent boost to its initial offer.

Albemarle raised its cash offer of 130p to 160p, valuing Albright & Wilson at £502m and trumping a 145p bid from Rhodia the French company majority controlled by the chemicals giant Rhone-Poulenc.

Albright's board immediately recommended the bid from Albemarie, which has helped to double Albright's market value since it confirmed talks with

interested parties in January. The City was vesterday expecting the battle to go into an-

THE INTERNATIONAL bidding BY ANDREW VERITY

Albright & Wilson

other round. Traders marked Albright's shares up 18p to 163p, above the Albemarie bid level. Rhodia encouraged those suspicions with a statement saying Albright, the world's biggest supplier of phosphates for detergents, remained a

strategic interest for the group. "We will consider our options and make our position public in the coming days, within a fortnight from now," said a com-

pany spokesman. Analysts believe Rhodía has the capacity to retaliate with a

bid of up to 200p, But most expect an offer at around 170p. Phillips & Drew,

the fund manager with a 25 per cent stake in Albright, is bid from Rhodia above 1600. Martin Evans, chemicals analvst at the stockbroker Sutherlands, said: "I think the next step will be for Rhodia to come back

in an attempt at a knock-out bid.

Rhodia is much more committed to Albright's business." The takeover battle took on a new twist earlier this week when Rhodia learned of advanced talks between Albright and Solutia, a US company specialising in phosphates. Some investors feared the news would scupper a bid from Rho-

dia, also big in phosphates, because of competition problems. Rhodia has already said it does not want Solutia. But the group has avoided competition problems in the short term by

using a small Austrian takeover pledged to support any further vehicle for the bid, ISPG.

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON FOR THE third day running blue chips gave ground with investors switching out of fashionable shares into recovery plays. Footsie fell 45.5 points to 6,420.6 after getting an early boost from the Asda/ Kingfisher merger. The mid-cap index surged 88.9 to 5,796.2 and the small-cap was up 18 to 2,467.1. Asda, up 22.25p to 198.75p, and Tesco, 14.25p to 181.5p, were the best performing Footsie constituents although mining group Billiton was

not far behind with a 14p gain to

Derek Pain, page 20

TOKYO

THE NIKKEI 225 index closed 124.5 higher at 16,851.58, a rise of 0.7 per cent. As confidence in an economic upturn strengthened overseas buyers were picking up recovery stocks such as Nippon Steel, which rose 12 per cent to a 12-month high.

Other steel stocks moved higher. Car stocks were generally firm with Honda closing 150 higher at 5,400. Sega Enterprises and Nintendo advanced, but technology stocks met some profittaking. NTT fell 0.7 per cent to

HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG index rose 4.4 per cent, or 528.07 points, to 12,490.30, its highest since 20 October 1997. Trading volume was the highest since November, helped by strong inflows of overseas funds and heavy demand for technology stocks.

Great Eagle rose 13 per cent, Wharf 10 per cent and Hongkong Telecom 8.5 per cent at HK\$15.25. Hutchison Whampoa rose 4.2 per cent and the leading bank HSBC gained 7 to HK\$277.

FRANKFURT

FRANKFURT ended the week sharply down after talks on tax reform between the government and utility companies broke down. The DAX Xetra closed down 46.7 points - 0.9 per cent - at 5,143.02.

RWE, Germany's largest utility which had threatened to move some business abroad if the government refused to back down, slid 2.95 euros - 7 per cent - to 40.7 euros. Downbeat statements from airlines British Midland and SAirGroup hit Lufthansa, which shed 0.39 euros to 22.4 euros.

SIR GEOFFREY MULCAHY, chief executive of Kingfisher, does like a deal, doesn't he? Everyone else is busy dismantling the conglomerates of yesteryear, but Sir Geoff seems intent only on building up a new one. And strangely enough, the City seems to like the idea.

Admittedly Sir Geoff is confining his ambitions to retailing, but what a hotch potch of different retailers he's assembling - Woolworths, Superdrug, the B & Q and Castorama DIY chains. Darty an French electrical retailer, and now, if all goes according to plan Asda as well. Is the City right to be backing this curiously unfashionable adventure in retail diversity.

The test of any merger has to be whether one and one adds up to more than two. Just occasionally there are good defensive reasons to merge which might justify a dispensation from this test, but such cases are usu-

ally pretty desperate ones. To his credit, Sir Geoff has so far proved himself reasonably adept at managing businesses across the retail sector, despite a wobbly mid term patch when he had to sack his friends and split his role in order to remain at the belm. On the other hand, it is not readily apparent that in his early forties, Allan Leighton,



OUTLOOK

agement. Its recovery from basket case is now fully complete and it is now well established in third place in the supermarkets league table.

Plainly there will be some buying power benefits to be had, but because these two companies are in different areas of the retail market, they are unlikely to be significant. Cross selling opportunities are also likely to be ite limited in scope, at least in the short term. So what's the point of this

Eventually there will be a succession problem at Kingfisher. Sir Geoff has a few good years left in him yet, but there is no obvious successor. Still chief executive of Asda, would provide or indeed really amounts to much

a company's need for an heir apparent is not in itself a good reason to

Simple observation tells you that big companies are always fatter and less efficient than smaller ones, but plainly there are some advantages in size for the sake of it. From buying power to cost of capital, large companies have a quite considerable competitive advantage over smaller ones. It is very much Sir Geoff's view that the increased price transparency and enhanced competition of European retailing caused by the single currency means that size will

become all important. Once again, however, it is questionable that bringing together a number of very different retailing formats to produce that size brings about the economies of scale Sir Geoff seeks. Nonetheless, in terms of market capitalisation, Kingfisher will end up bigger that Marks & Spencer. Sainsbury and Tesco. In terms of sales too, Sir Geoff will be up there at the

That's quite a badge to wear on your lapel, but whether in the end this merger does any more than provide an antidote to management boredom,

a top drawer replacement. However, more than the pursuit of prestige and size for the sake of it, is open to question. It seems unlikely the City will oppose this marriage, but the betting must be that 10 years down the line the merchant bankers will be earning their fee for the second time round - by dismantling this grand folly.

Sainsbury's

THERE IS always something to be said for self criticism, but as countless generations of zealots have found, it doesn't necessarily lead to self improvement. There were no excuses at Sainsbury's yesterday. Dino Adriano, the chief executive, was brutally frank. "The level of sales growth at Sainsbury's Supermarkets

is not acceptable. Underlying like-for-like sales growth of 1.2 per cent is just not good enough when your arch-rival and market leader Tesco is racking up 4 per cent. Profits will just about meet market forecasts for last year, the company said yesterday, but for this year there will be a fall, despite the decision to shed 300 people and

invest £30m to drive top-line growth. It was no wonder that, excited by the Kingfisher Asda announcement,

this as good news, figuring that Sainsbury's weakness would make it a likely target for a new wave of supermarket consolidation. Actually, the market is probably wrong about this. With the Government and competition authorities in their present mood, no merger of supermarket companies would get the thumbs up, and there are no other Sir Geoffs around intent on building

up some new retail conglomerate. It's possible that Sainsbury could make a target for Wal-Mart, or some other foreign behemoth interested in establishing a UK footing, but the shareholders would be unwise to bank on it. The odds are that Sainsbury will have to manage its own way out of its present malaise. Mr Adriano and his team have got their work

Euro tax

THE CHANCELLOR has got himself into a bit of a hole over that irritating German proposal for a European wide withholding tax on investment income. The wretched thing is on the agenda for an informal meeting of European finance ministers in Dres-

fortable the Treasury is about the whole thing too.

In the City, the proposal is causing much gnashing of teeth and it has been leapt on by the Eurosceptic press as a couse célèbre. According to some, the tax will force the entire Eurobond industry to migrate from London to kinder tax regimes, with the loss of thousands of British jobs.

This might be an unduly alarmist view but it is certainly the case that if imposed, the tax would partially erode the City's competitive advantage. In an electronic world where it is becoming increasingly easy to locate business in one of any number of international financial centres, it is crucial that the City hangs onto as much of a competitive edge as it can.

The perceived seriousness of this threat has prompted the British government to take a tough (or tough-ish) line. Gordon Brown, we are told, will not agree to anything that harms the City However, neither is Mr Brown keen to use his powers to veto the tax unless ab-

This has all led to talk of compromise, with the favoured plan, at

the stock market perversely took all den this weekend, and jolly uncomtail investors by imposing a threshold of 40,000 euros, over which transactions would be tax exempt. In theory this would trap rich tax dodgers while leaving the wholesale

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market unaffected. In practice, it would probably do nothing of the sort. Canny retail investors could avoid the tax by joining forces until the combined value of their transactions exceeded the threshold. This gives the Chancellor a possible let-out. If the effectiveness of the legislation is open to question, then ministers are unlikely to back it.

So where does this leave us? One of two things could happen. First, someone could come up with a brilliant compromise - which seems rather unlikely given the poor standard of the solutions that have been proposed so far. Second, and far more the most likely, is that alternative proposals will be discussed. plans drawn up, and consultations made, until the German presidency of the Commission has passed. Playing the whole thing off into the long grass seems to be the Chancellor's best hope of avoiding use of

Asda merger sets retailers' alarm bells ringing

THE PROPOSED £18bn Asda/ Kingfisher merger prompted alarm bells to ring in the retail sectors.

The prospect of the biggest shops group the country has ever known being created put the shares of many stores under pressure

Great Universal Stores fell 46.5p to 726p and Marks & Spencer 18.75p to 423p. Boots gave up 27p to 855.5p and Dixons 44p (after 80p) to 1,343p. MFI, the furniture chain seen as a bid target in Thursday's excitement, fell 3p to 46.5p as

But the possibility the Asda/Kingfisher deal would quicken the pace of shopkeeping mergers prevented a retail rout. And the expected arrival in this country of Wal-Mart, the US giant, and the growing ambition of Continental groups, which are taking an increasing interest in British retailing, produced a few buyers, particularly among the supermarkets.

Safeway improved 4.75p to 260p in heavy trading and J Sainsbury, helped by a betterthan-expected trading statement, gained 15.25p to 390.25p. Tesco, already being linked with more Continental buys. iumped 14.25p to 181.5p. Asda. with turnover reaching

a staggering 91.2 million shares,

BRITISH BORNEO, the oil explorer, flared 20p to 152.5p. Besides the perceived revival in oil fortunes the gain was fuelled by talk of takeover action - and a significant find. According to a wellinformed source. BB was evaluating what could be a rich discovery in the Gulf of Mexico which would add impressively to its assets.

The shares almost touched 400p last year and were 522.5p a few years ago.

26p) gain to 198.75p; Kingfisher reversed a 35p advance to end 35p down at 840p.

Away from the supermarket the mid-cap contingent. As Footsie wilted for the third-day jumped 88.9 points to 5,796.2. It has been in relentless form this year although it is still more than 150 from its peak. The small-cap index climbed 18 to 2.467.1, still more than 300 from its high.

Footsie, off 45.5 to 6,420.6, was ruffled by an uncertain New York display as well some switching out of fashionable blue chips, such as telecoms, into cyclical shares. In early trading it advanced 47.1, largely on the back of the Asda/Kingfisher excitement.

It was the second busiest session ever with share volume helped by Asda's 94.1 million contribution - mushrooming to

Engineers, chemicals, paper

MARKET REPORT



and packaging, building materials and oils - all renown for forming Footsie constituent of their under-performance - were prominent in the mid-cap 201.5p. The shares started the charge.

Cookson, the engineer, led the way with a 24.5p gain to 177.5p; Spirax-Sarco, buying in its shares, rose 51p to 552p. The stream of corporate ac-

tivity continued with Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, gaining 18p to 163p as Albemarle, the US group, lifted its offer to 160p, topping a counter bid from Rhodia of France. With some, including Martin

SHARE SPOTLIGHT share price, pence MFI 80 60 50 20 M J J A S OND J FMA

Evans of Sutherlands, claiming Albright is worth 180p a share, the French may not yet be out of the battle.

London Clubs International jumped 11.5p to 159p as checked in with a 22.25p (after some bet on a management buy out. Yule Catto reacted 21p higher to 322p on bid specula-

Devro, the sausage skin excitement the day belong to maker attracted bid speculation although the shares were little from Warburg Dillon Read changed at 132.5p. The comparunning, the small-cap index ny has produced four profit warnings and its shares have fallen from 545p in the past 12 months. Former chairman Leon Allen, now a venture capitalist, is claimed to be trying to put together a bid. Mr Allen, who used to head the Tetley tea group, is said to be preparing a 200p a share offer.

But the Break for the Border night clubs group felt the impact of a failed bid. The shares fell 8.5p to 35.5p after Po Na Na, a late-night bar chain which is traded on the fringe Ofex market, called off merger talks. Po Na Na rose 3p to 95.5p. Kunick, the amusement machine group, fell 1.5p to 16.5p as a rumoured bid failed to

Scottish & Newcastle, the

brewing group, was flat again with profit worries resurfacing and talk of problems over a brewing contract.

Water shares were ruffled by BT Alex Brown caution - "the sector is best avoided for the moment", said the investment house. Thames Water was lowered 15.5p to 900p and United Utilities 6p to 732.5p.

The mining blue chips, Billiton and RioTinto, continued to claw their way back on the expectation that commodity prices are going to advance. Bil liton became the best per-1999 with a 14p gain taking it to year at 119p. Rio rose 17.5p to 1,021.5p.

BP Amoco was another beneficiary of the more positive approach to resources, gushing 52.5p to 1,125p, a new peak.

Many fund managers are still believed to be underweight in Footsie's biggest component and their positions will not be helped by the proposed take over of the US giant Atlantic Richfield. Shell gained 25p to 444.75p.

BTR Siebe enjoyed the improved climate for engineers, gaining 21.5p to 321p. Shareholders approved the change of name to the unlikely Invensys. AstraZeneca suffered fur-

ON A day when a variety of takeover rumours swirled around the market, First Leisure Corporation was

under the speculative whip. The shares, in heavy trading, jumped 24p to 247.5p. Talk of a predatory strike has often gone the rounds as Michael Grade has reshaped the sprawling group. Profits have been under pressure but a

modest recovery to £34m is expected this year. The shares have touched 436.5p.

ther punishment, falling 71p to 2,579p. The shares have fallen each day since the Anglo-Swedish merger was completed on Tuesday of last week. A suggested 2,600p price target seems to have been an unset-

tling influence. There has also been some bearish analytical comment on drugs, which has hit the industry's leading shares. But a nineday losing streak must represent an unhealthy start to market life for the new group. One suggestion is the small but highly-vocal Swedish contingent which opposed the deal is

selling shares. Cambridge Mineral Resources continued to sparkle following its positive progress report on its search for diamonds in Ireland. The shares rose 2.5p to 10.5p; they have climbed from 5.5p this month.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.6bn SEAQ TRADES: 111,050 GILTS INDEX: n/a



Thames Water's wetlands site in Barnes, overlooked by project manager Kevin Peberdy

Water companies defy Byatt with plans for price rises

BRITAIN'S 27 water companies have defied the Government and Ian Byatt, the water regulator, by seeking inflation-busting price rises in the business plans they have submitted for the next five years to Ofwat.

The refusal to cut prices is likely to lead to a clash between the companies and Ofwat. which last year said it expected cuts in prices of between 15 and 20 per cent. The outcome could hit share prices in the privatised water utilities.

The Independent has learned Thames is one of the few to offer a price cut of £10 (about 5 per cent) next year on the average bill of £205, but it too will be seeking rises of 2.5 per cent above inflation in subsequent years to pay for higher investment, taking the average bill to £215.

Chief Political Correspondent

they cannot afford to make big gins in a risk-free business price cuts, having been ordered to invest a massive £8bn in environmental improve-

schemes. Ministers, who have been angered by "fat cat" salaries for some utility directors, last night made it clear they were in no mood to back down, and 11 Labour MPs tabled a Commons motion calling on the Government and Ofwat to stick to their targets for cuts in water

Don Norris, the Labour MP for Wansdyke, who tabled the motion, accused the water companies of mounting an orchestrated campaign to avoid

their shareholders. "I think they are doing their best to pro-The water companies say tect their generous profit marwhere they have monopoly

power." he said A spokeswoman for John ments and cleaner water Prescott's Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions said the Government was still demanding a cut in prices of 10 per cent across the country. "We think an acrossthe-board reduction in prices is justified and still achievable with the £8bn environmental

programmes," she said. Thames has seen its share price slide from a high of £12 to £8.88. Its chief executive, Bill Alexander, who will earn £260,000 in salary this year, believes he has struck the right balance between his share-

cutting their prices to protect holders and the demands of Ofwat and Mr Prescott. Thames is planning to spend £2.5bn in its region in the next five years on improvements to water quality, cutting down leaks, reducing lead in pipes and replacing some systems.

The big threat to profits is more competition. Already there are two big French companies in the British market and the British companies fear "cherry picking" by competitors entering the market, including

the gas and electricity utilities. Thames, which has established a wetlands at Barnes in south-west London as part of its "green" credentials, has had to diversify into parks and gardens services in London's Royal Parks and in Birmingham to grow in the UK, and it could launch its own takeover bids.

IN BRIEF

United Assurance cuts 1,000 jobs

UNITED ASSURANCE. the door-to-door insurer, yesterday said it was cutting 1,000 jobs, more than a quarter of its workforce, as part of a wholesale change in corporate strategy.

The jobs will be cut from door-to-door premium collection. The redundancies, costing £62m, will be spread across United's 112 branches nationwide and implemented by next April. Unions are negotiating to reduce the scale of the cuts.

Goldman Sachs GOLDMAN SACHS said yesterday that the bank is targetting a 20 per cent return on capital and aims to be the number one investment bank in all sectors

of the market. Senior Goldmans chairman Hank Paulson and the co-chief operating officers John Thornton and John Thain, were meeting potential investors in Hong Kong ahead

of the bank's flotation in June. Baird's £21m buy

WILLIAM BAIRD, the textile group and M&S supplier, is buying Lowe Alpine, a designer, manufacturer and marketer of outdoor clothing and equipment, for £21m in cash, including £8m of company debt. Lowe Aloine. based in Kendal, Cumbria, has subsidiaries in the US, Ireland, France and Germany. 🛴 In the year just ended it made a profit before tax of £1.6m on a turnover of £33m.

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A COMPANY

Talks called off SHARES IN Break for the Border (BFTB), the quoted restaurants, bars and theatres group, fell 20 per cent to 35.5p yesterday as Po Na Na Group, the Ofex-traded owner of late-night bars, called off takeover talks after failing to agree terms for a cash-plus-shares offer for BFTB. The two companies said they were in talks on 1

Renault's offices

THE EUROPEAN Commission has raided the offices of Renault after allegations that it told its Irish distributor not to sell new cars to British residents, EU sources said yesterday.

New car prices in Britain are the highest in the 15-nation European Union and British consumers are increasingly travelling abroad to buy cars at lower prices.

EU inspectors raided Renault's French headquarters. the premises of its Irish distributor and several individual dealers on March 24 and 25, said one source.

The news follows the Commission's announcement earlier this week that it formally warned the US-German auto giant DaimlerChrysler that its sales practices in four European countries were in breach of antitrust rules.

British consumers' complaints that cars in Britain are more expensive than anywhere else in the European bloc have increased substantially in the last few years.

These concerns cover all car models, including locally made Rover, but the decision to pick Renault suggests the Commission may be keen to take its offensive beyond the German manufacturers.

Besides DaimlerChrysler. the Commission is investigating General Motors' Opel and last year fined Volkswagen on similar charges.

Renault was not immediately available to comment. According to the Commission's latest car pricing report. published in February, new car prices in Britain are as much as 45 per cent higher than the cheapest within the bloc.

EU inspectors raid | Telecom Italia shares up on reports of German merger

SHARES IN Telecom Italia jumped yesterday on reports that Deutsche Telekom, the state-owned German operator, was preparing to rescue it from a hostile bid by Olivetti, the former typewriter group, with a \$200bn merger.

Both companies refused to comment on the report, which boosted Telecom Italia shares 3 per cent. The Italian group has made little secret of its desire to attract a white knight bidder since an attempt to trigger a poison pill defence By PETER THAL LARSEN

against Olivetti's hostile bid. Apart from Deutsche, British Telecom, Spain's Telefonica and the US group Sprint have all been named as potential

Both the Italian and the German governments claimed no knowledge of the talks. However, they would both play a large role in any link-up if it were to go ahead. As a 74 per cent shareholder in Deutsche

ment would have to formally approve the merger. Meanwhile, the Italian government has a golden share in Telecom Italia allowing it to block any un-

Analysts pointed out that any merger between the two companies would raise huge regulatory barriers. Deutsche would have to unwind its close alliance with France Telecom, which has seen the companies take shares in each other and make joint investments in other

furnisher (f) Pro-tax (f) 13 055m (8 655m) 3.180m (1.663m) -0.200m (18 2m) -0.122m (0 758m) 527.1m (447.6m) 10 959m (10 460m

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Telekom, the German govern- European countries.

COMPANY RESULTS

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Snooker: Reig ning world champion relishes Crucible atmosphere while great rival is in predatory mood once again

Higgsins in earsy framie of mind

ANYONE WITH the name "John Higgins" on a betting slip would have squirmed with anxiety. "I've not really been practising." the world snooker champion said. "I've been going to the club and just going through the motions." The candour was a surprise as much as the sentiment.

If Jimmy White or Ronnie 100 p O'Sullivan had said it no one cause would have batted an eyelid. Tve go but Higgins? Given that no first-time winner has successfully defended the Embassy World Championship at the Crucible, it was almost as I need if he was surrendering his title snooke even before he bent over a

Or it might have been his way of distributing the load before he embarks on a 17-day compro slog. Maybe he needed to be an underdog in his own mind

Higgins starts his defence against Northern Ireland's precede Gerard Greene in Sheffield his morning as unquestionbly the best snooker player in the world. Since winning at the Crucible last May he has collected the UK Championship. the Masters and two other titles and in any other sport retention of his title would seem

likely. Not snooker. Even Steve D Stephen Hendry, the greatest cumbed to) Higgins' talent will players of the modern era. could not do it and Higgins admits he will never dominate in the manner they did. History says he cannot win this tournament and his weary complaint about practice hardly contradicted it. Yet with him it er season could be different.

Baird's £21m is Although Higgins is not in 12.7 10.00 the Hendry class when it much a bolt comes to hard labour (Her- as the last c cules came second in that con- mit from a b شيشين كتناس والما test), he is a worker. However, he understands when prac-tice is dulling his game. His admission that he was bored two weeks ago can be assessed as have got the a sign of weakness but it might also speak of strength. He has he said. "You gone his own way before.

1000 At 15 he won the Scottish hear the cro Under-16 and Under-19 titles, other match. a feat that was even beyond the young Hendry and, when he being distract Talks called joined Hendry's manager, Ian Doyle, his passage to the top of the game looked likely to be as smooth as it was well-trod. Instead there was a parting of the ways that caused minds to wonder whether Higgins had the discipline of a truly great player.

Last year's 18-12 win over and I'd taken s Ken Doherty in the final at the merings from h بالمنطقة والتعادد Crucible answered that, but also proved that Higgins might not always conform. However, he is a good judge of what is

> "Stephen was very, very single-minded." Higgins said, quarter-finals. I 'd never got

BY GUY H IODGSON

all his life revolved round ter but I'm a little bit difsnool t. I have to be. I can't give er cent to snooker be-I'm close to my family, it a girlfriend. I like to go th the boys, I like enjoy-'free time. I'm probably ing my zoned in. not as

ave to strike a balance. "I h. i to get away from r, too. I need breaks to recbar ge my batteries and ack a fresher, better come i player.

ins, 23, hit a happy Hige mise between freshd lack of preparation last yea. r and he will know better if he has located it again, a chance of bucking nt, this morning.

Johnson

adding a

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things lef

The su

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Davis and

world No 1

Doherty and Joe have come closest to second title straight first by reaching the it's an ambition, no ," he said. "I'd love to ause it's one of the t in snooker for me to

iggestion that most have already succome as . a surprise to those otice of him only last year, but h e is already third on the all-tir ne list of ranking nt winners behind Hendry. He is the for at least anoth-, and has career

oproaching £2m. earnings a Last yea r's win was not so from the blue spot climb for the sumase camp that had been built a t a very high altiif Higgins had not tude. In fact taken time to warm to the Crucible he would probably re earlier.

10t much room," "There's ! 're sat right next nent and you can to your oppor wd watching the The first year or ally like it. I was two I didn't re ted but it grows you. Now I think and grows on there's not a t ournament that comes close to o it. The atmos-

stic."

phere is fanta: Recalling la st year he says he can rememi "I'd beaten Ster the final of the just before I car young that to bea great confidenc

might do well. t I thought I "The momen past John Par

per every point. ohen Hendry in : British Open ne to Sbeffield so many hamim when I was at him gave me e. I thought I

s when I got rott in the point."

ANN IALISA

BAR BIERI



The singular John Higgins: 'I'm a little different. I have to be. I can't give 100 per cent to snooker

match was very, very tough. the hardest I had at the Crucible. But I was in the semi-finals and the one-table set-up. You know it's not going to be easy but it was a turning

Eight frames in succession said. "I was very proud for my

past that stage before and the burned off O'Sullivan in the parents. They have both given it's a horrible feeling because semi-finals and in the final he lost the first frame but was

never behind again. "When I was clearing up in the last frame I could see my mum starting to cry. and it nearly set me off as well," he

me so much support over the years. It was a marvellous

evening." Higgins will re-enter the theatre of tears at 10am, the traditional grand entrance for the defending champion.

that comes with being defending champion." It is a pressure he would "If you lose on the first day

love to re-acquaint himself with next year.

you don't feel as though the

championship has begun. I

know I'm under pressure but

Hendry driven by history

CHI CHI RODRIGUEZ was talk- BY GUY HODGSON ing about Jack Nicklaus when he said "he became a legend in his spare time", but he could have applied it to Stephen Hendry. Give him a minute and he would go to pot.

Maybe the old drive is not quite there in the lesser events, but put the 30-year-old six-times champion anywhere near Sheffield and the old predatory instincts return. The Embassy World Snooker Championships begin today and it can be assured that Hendry has not lined up a shot this season without studying its pertinence to this tour-

It is history he is after, and he will get that if he wins at The Crucible again and becomes the first modern player to win seven titles. It would be one more than Ray Reardon and Steve Davis and would put his name in the record books for the future as clearly as it resides in present minds. It is the principal, if not the only, reason why he still puts in the hours of graft.

"It is my burning ambition," Hendry said, which, for a man who last showed an emotion in public when the midwife welcomed him into the world with a smack, is a fair indication of an inferno within. He can no longer swagger round the snooker circuit with the air of near-invincibility but he is still a formidable opponent. He has won two tournaments this season and, if he can regain the mental rigidity of his 20s, he will take some stopping.

"There is nothing much wrong with my game," he said, harder before they got there. "it's just my concentration that lets me down occasionally. If I don't get that right it will show up even more in the longerframe matches at Sheffield." It would be a shock if Hendry's

mind does not focus properly if he gets past a potentially difficult first-round opponent, Paul Hunter.

A rock-solid Hendry could meet an opponent in the semifinals whose own mother would not even testify to his concentration, Ronnie O'Sullivan, Indeed, it would be a fascinating confrontation between a man who squeezed the last drop from his body and another who sometimes seems hell bent on wastefully haemorrhaging his

Mention of his mother is appropriate because Maria O'Sullivan is likely to accompany her son to Sheffield this week to give him a much-needed guiding hand. "I've been practising really hard since Christmas," he said. "and I started to reap some of the benefits. I've not been there mentally this season, but I'm trying to get things right in my head. Not before time.

The fear is O'Sullivan could end up, like Jimmy White, tantalisingly close but not quite disciplined enough to win the prize his brilliance deserves. The "Whirlwind" has qualified for The Crucible and renews his relationship with romantics everywhere with the outstanding match of the first round against the eighth seed, Alan McManus.

"The Crucible always brings the best out of me," White said, "and no one will be trying harder than me to win the title." Sadly, everyone else will almost certainly have worked

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Sheffield): Today: 10am: / Higgins v G Greere, A Hamilton v C Small 2.30pm: N Higgins v Greenet T Drago v F O'Buen
Tomorrown 10.mm: Hamilton v Small: Bond
v Dale 2.30pm: K Doherny v S James, Drago v O'Brien 7pm: A Robidoux v N Walker,
Parrort v Murphy

EMBASSY WORLD SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP World rankings in bracket ohn Higgins, Sco (1) Mark King, Eng (16) Alan McManus, Sco (8 Srephen Lee, Eng (9) John Lardner, Sco (94) Alain Potudoux, Can (12) Nick Walker, Eng (71) Nigel Bond, Eng (13) Dommic Dale, Wal (23) Ronnie O'Sulhvan, Eng (3) Steve Davis, Eng (14) Anthony Hamilton, Eng (11) John Parrott, Eng (6) Peter Etydon, Eng (7) PRIZE MONEY Last 16: £19 350 Last 32: £12,500 Stephen Hendry, Sco (2) Poul Hunter, Eng (24)

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Flat, rippleed or dry fly – all in my ideal book at bedtime

APOLOGIES FOR my absence last week, I was just so busy reading all the letters my last column illicited. Special namein-lights mertion must go to R Brockbank in Cumbria, who seemed to think me saying that it is usually men that pose for pictures holding fat bellied fish constituted feminism. Mr Brockbank! That wasn't feminism, it was a sentence. What is the world coming to if one

can't make a generalisation? Before I launch into the subject proper this week, I must mention that the salmon by-laws proposed by the Environment Agency have now -however, any angle come into force. These affect a salmon before 16. fishermen in England and Wales and are as follows: jury. Salmon and sea trout netting

ON F. ISHING will now not start until 1 June (a few specified fis heries may

they accidentally c. atch). Rod and line as start fishing for sal the local season offic return it with min

You must only use

still net for sea tro out but will have to return at my salmon

iglers can mon when fune must imum in-

ially starts :r catching

e artificial

shrimps, etc.

own even more stringent local regulations, so please make sure you know what they are before you start. Now then, *Sportfish. For a

and nothing else, no worms or Be aware, however, that some rivers will have their

flies or lures before that date,

couple of years I have wanted to find out a bit more about

with fishing magazines. My shop (at Winforton), Londoners boxes and you can clip in six restrictions did not allow me to copy sits constantly by my bed As someone relatively new to fishing, compared to all and Farlows.

those "at the river bank from birth" types, I like its friendly. clear approach. Fifteen years ago, when Sportfish started, its catalogues were not so good. "I'd be really embarrassed to show you one now," says Philip Parkinson, who owns Stanfish with his wife, Anne. We'll we all have to start somewhere, and their black and white early offerings have mutated into something altogether more

slick and colourful now. Mail order accounts for 90 per-cent of Sportfish's busithem. Their mail order cata- ness. Lucky folk in Hereford

logue is often given away free can visit the Sportfish HQ and are large, flat, clear plastic for him as a present (financial a some tackle manufacturers can visit them on Pall Mall (where Tidelines used to be), fly). sandwiched betwixt Hardy's

> When this latest shop opened I was almost beside myself with excitement at the thought of being able to see all the gadgets from the catalogue come alive. Sportfish mixes the traditional with modern, more US-inspired kil. Hence you can still get lovely Richard Wheatley metal fly boxes, but if you fancy something a little more minimalist then you can have that too.

A very innovative fly-holding idea they sell is by C&F Design. which consists of system files, ily boxes and linings. The files the system, which I had bought

foam linings (flat, rippled or dry The idea is that you put

particular flies (say, for a hot day on a chalk stream) on each lining and, when you go fishing, you take whichever linings you want out and put them in the fly boxes.

Although I adore my Wheatley boxes, which are all engraved with my fishing name, I really took a shine to the C&F design. For one, when all six linings are fully loaded and in their files they look great - you can see them all in one go.

My fishing buddy. Pete, was not so keen, so I had to return

keep it for myself).

fish but knows a lot about the products, since it was she who initially started up the business). He used to be a fisheries later in the year. scientist for the Welsh Water Authority and was involved in the opening of reservoirs as fisheries in the 70s, then he was made Fisheries Officer for about hatcheries, fish farms, Gwynedd, which he left to work at Partridge's of Redditch, the hook and hamboo cane rod manufacturers, (Andy Murray of Hardy's recently told me there is no such thing as a split cane rod, they're called bamboo rods).

Then Parkinson worked for

then joined Anne and Sportfish, which she had already been Philip Parkinson knows a lot running for some years. He is about fishing (his wife doesn't also a founder member of the Wye Foundation and is very involved with lots of conservation work, which I shall report on

We talked for several hours whilst I consumed Fox's Glacier Mints, a large stash of which he keeps on his desk, and the new laws that I have reported on before. It was like doing a fisheries degree in one easy, sweet-sucking afternoon, although I suspect, made much easier. *Sportfish: 01544 327111 or 0171

839 9008.

a.barbieri@independent.co.uk

Blue clues to marathon exercise in self-discovery

LET'S SUPPOSE you are out in the park, okay, and you see, running towards you, a Teletubby. (It isn't important whether it is Tinky Winky, Laa-Laa, Dipsy or Po). You might question your sanity. More likely, you would regard the person inside the oncoming, primary-coloured suit as more of a lunatic - and most times you would be right. But not in the last few days before the London Marathon.

If this unsettling experience befalls you during April, you should know that the person inside the oncoming suit whether it be that of a Teletubby, a Luke Skywalker or the Matterhorn - is not being silly. but sensible. Ask Neil Black.



ROWBOTTOM

Black, physiotherapist to the British athletics team, is a regular contributor to pre-Marathon teach-ins for first-time charity runners. His advice for those about to travel

Does that mask suffocate you as soon as you start moving? Do chosen course.

Advice to aspiring marathoners is available from every quarter. Whole books are devoted to it. Newspapers and magazines in Langan's, pondered on Thugdetail dos and don'ts. According to Black, there is simply too much information out there for the rookie runner, much of it

Earlier this week John Spurling, a 59-year-old advertising executive who is seeking

conventional competitors - be portunity to quiz the Olympic familiar with what you run in. champion, Josiah Thugwane. on his pre-race diet.

The South African explained those leggings chafe? These are that he normally ate meat and things you need to be aware of maize 24 hours before starting. before you embark upon your Spurling, whose sporting experience in the past 40 years has been confined to playing golf and taking up foolhardy bets during late-night sittings wane's words for a second or two before translating them into more meaningful form. "So basically," he said, "That means bangers and mash." The prospect seemed to please

im. line along the whole of the Spurling was working out for route should still her fears.

put across in his seminars that, ultimately, each runner offer a strong clue.
has to discover what works for Another of Black's charges has to discover what works for them. If it's bangers and mash.

Many different messages have been required from Black this year in order to set virgin marathoners back on the right lines. "One lady stood up during our question time and said two-hour run. He was advised her main worry was not whether she could complete the distance, but whether she could get lost on the course." Black

He assured her that the

in the same direction would also

was troubled by sore legs and persistent fatigue. He had read an article which maintained that the key to marathon preparation was two-hour runs. And so, at six o'clock every morning, he had been setting out on a to ease off a bit.

There was a query of a very different kind from a man who said he was losing weight during his training, even though he insisted he was eating 12,000 presence of a wide blue guide- calories per day. It was suggested to this seeker-after-truth that if he really was losing

26 miles and 385 yards in absurd to raise £1m for charity in this outfits is the same as for more year's London event, had an operation of the main messages which Black attempts to sages this man should also have been encouraged to gain a worldwide patent on his dietary technique.

But perhaps the most challenging case Black has had to deal with this time around concerned the runner who presented him with a Cunning Plan. Here, in all its majestic simplicity, it is.

Run the first mile. Then sit down, keeping the legs moving in a peddling action for one minute. Run the second mile. Then sit down and keep the legs peddling for two minutes. And so on, with steadily increasing "rests", 26 times over

Black pointed out as tactfully

s he could that this approach . nyolved a number of potentially lebilitating factors, no least of which was the risk of severe bdominal strain from all the stationary exercising.

However, the Curning Planner - who had never previously run further than four miles at one sitting, as it were - remained convinced that he had made a significant breakthrough in distance running technique. And so keen was he to share his inspiration that he handed Black the full instructions as he was about to address a newly arrived group of charity runners.

Black put the note in his back pocket, but chose not to pass it

Meyer's theories run in practice

Pride of South Africa competes in tomorrow's London Marathon with speed in mind. By Mike Rowbottom

HOWEVER ELANA MEYER runs in her first London Marathon tomorrow - and the elfin South African is expecting great things - her place in athletics history is already assured contemporary. Zola Budd. When she joined Derartu Tulu on a joyous lap of honour after the success in marathon runthe Ethiopian had beaten her to ning that she experienced on the 1992 Olympic 10,000 metres the track, where she added a title, Meyer became, whether Commonwealth silver to the she knew it or not, a symbol.

South Africa, banned from well as a World Cup title. the Olympics after the 1960 Games because of its apartheid policy, could not have wished for in the mid-1980s allowed her the a more affecting image of its international competition return to the international fold: denied to her compatriots until a white and a black African 1992 - has retired from top-class

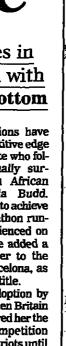
Over the following months, letters of congratulation from than ever before. compatriots of all colours. that evening of high emotion in was the genuineness of the gesoccasion almost reverentially. ishes second they are really disappointed, but I was so happy because it had been such a long road just to get to the Games. I got a medal – lots of great South African athletes never even got the chance to compete in the Olympics. Even if I win a gold medal in the future it will never be as emotionally rewarding for me as getting

But such reflections have not taken the competitive edge away from the athlete who followed, and eventually surpassed, her South African Meyer is determined to achieve one she won in Barcelona, as

Budd - whose adoption by the Daily Mail and then Britain running. Meyer is still there And, by her own assessment, Meyer received hundreds of training and running better

What registered so clearly on three inches and not quite eight stone – but her ambition Barcelona's Montjuic stadium remains huge. This, after all, is an athlete who is unable to run ture. Meyer recalls the anymore. At least, according to the assessment of doctors who "Usually when someone fin- examined her in the wake of the severe Achilles tendon injury which forced ber to abandon the 1996 Olympic marathon.

She suffered a 70 per cent tear of the tendon, and the prognosis was bleak, indeed terminal. But the doctors reckoned without the spirit that had kept Meyer running and improving through the long years of international exile. "I didn't



She is not big - five foot



recalled. "Something deep down inside me said I would be back. I believe there is nothing vou can't recover from.'

It is just as well that Meyer holds such a philosophy. Over the past five years it has been tested to the limits by a succession of injuries to her legs and back. She even managed to cause a stress fracture in her spine while lifting heavy luggage from an airport carrousel on her return from the 1995 World Championships in Goth-

Since July of last year, however, she has enjoyed uninterbelieve what they said," she rupted training for the first

25min 15sec on her debut in Boston, And a winning time of 66min 44sec in January's Tokyo half-marathon - the second fastest ever by a woman - confirmed that, at the age of 32, she is in the form of her life.

"Until now I have approached marathon running with the mindset of a track runner, and that doesn't work," she said. "Now I feel like a marathon runner, and that transition makes me excited about running in London."

her marathon best of 2hrs her running for the past 14 international sport in 1992, years. Pieter Labuschagne, who also guided Budd's fortunes. "Elana can go much faster than ever before on Sunday," he says.

If Meyer does succeed in her be the first woman to have won there after being told her career was finished. Liz Mc-Colgan, who took the title in 1996, received the same prognosis two years beforehand.

If Budd was Meyer's main rival in the early part of her Her recent advances have career, it was McColgan who taken place in tandem with took over the role. Although

Meyer had competed against the Scot many times before both lined up for the Olympic 10,000m final. That is, she had

competed theoretically. By 1991 I was getting so London ambition, she will not frustrated with not being able to race against runners from other countries that I competed with Liz on paper," Meyer said. "Every time she ran well, at 3.000m or 5.000m, I would go out back home and try to run

She succeeded, too, recording 8min 32sec for the 3,000m and 14min 44sec for the 5,000m.

world's top five. She even went out t with her husband Mich

trained lawyer who no wruns a chain of children's spc shops near their home lenbosch - and wi McColgan winning ti 10.000m title. "It was not nice," sa

with a wry grin. "I have led every moment of it, beca wanted to be running won't say I would ha but I know I would have made a real race of it."

This time around, it is Meyer who has the opportu

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ive won -

the limelight at McColgan's expense - the Scottish runner misses this year's race because hael – a she is expecting her second

Seven years ago, Budd said Meyer would one day run 2.20 for the marathon. Reminded of that forecast this week, Meyer readily agreed with it, "Yes, for sure," she said.

"On the track, and in halfmarathons, I've achieved close to my potential. In the marathon, I haven't. That's something which really motivates me.

Elite pose tough test for Brown

BRITAIN HAS not had a male winner at the London Marathon Hill's British Veteran Record of 2 hr 15 min 46 sec tomorrow, put everything together perfectly on

Six years on, the top British runner, Jon Brown, faces an almost impossible task as he seeks to bring off another home victory. It is bard to see how the organisers of this year's Flora London Marathon could have done a better job in attracting the event's elite. Towing the line in Shooters Hill Road at 9.30 am will be the Olympic Champion. Josiah Thugwane of South Africa, Brazil's Ronaldo Da Costa, who set a world best of 2:06:05 in winning last September's Berlin race, and the world champion, Abel Anton of Spain, who is defending his title.

European 10,000 metres champion Antonio Pinto of Portugal, winner of this event in 1992 and 1997, Lee Bong-Ju of South Korea, lost the 1996 Olympic title to Thugwane by just three of Kenya, who has a best of a while 2:07:27 to his name.

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

No wonder Brown is back

down at 33-1 with the bookies. The ner is hanging on to his own theory that when any top class field is convened - and he likens this one to the Olympics in terms of present run to form. But even if that prediction proves correct, Brown - whose outspoken comments about the illegal use of the blood-booster EPO in distance running provoked an angry reaction from Pinto earlier this week - has little chance of ending Britain's wait. However, his eighth place in last month's World Cross Country Championships at Belfast offered impressive evidence of his form. and he looked certain to improve on his best London placing of eighth, his position last Add to those aspirants the year, and best time of 2:10:13.

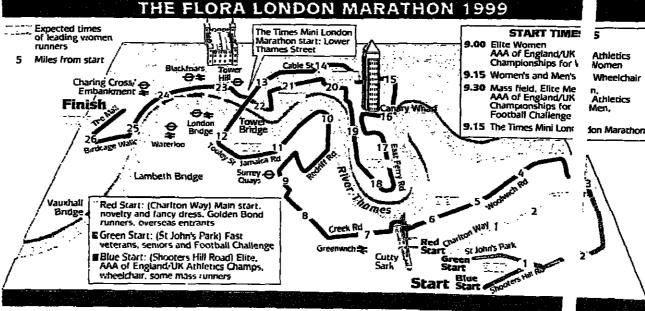
It is make or break time for Brown. "If I don't feel I can be competitive here there is no point in going on to run the Olympic Marathon in Sydney next year. " he said. "So this seconds, and Josephat Kiprono could be my last marathon for

Ronaldo Da Costa is the

bookmakers' favourite although his manager, Luis Felipe Posso, with sufficient concentration after the achievement which his soccer-crazy homeland.

Thugwane's recent record has been fitful - he dropped out quality - only 50 per cent of those of last year's London race and the subsequent New York event with injury. But Pinto, who put season last year at the age of 32, looks capable of securing a third title. Anton, too, reports himself in ideal shape for the race - assuming he is not distracted by the events of this week, when his wife gave birth to their first child by caesarean section.

The women's race has an open look in the absence of the 1996 winner, Liz McColgan, who is expecting her second child. and Catherina McKiernan of Ireland. last year's champion. who withdrew from the defence of her title last month because of an Achilles tendon problem. Earlier this week the women's race lost another potentially fascinating element when Fernanda Riberio, Fortugal's Olympic 10,000m champion



been her debut at the distance with a knee injury.

McColgan's opinion - which is likely to be as good as anyone's - is that Joyce Chepchumba of Kenya, who beat her to the 1997 title by just one second looks the most likely winner. The bookmakers agree. They had Chepchumba at 4-6 for a second London title with Portugal's European Champion, Manuela Machado, at 4-1, and Elana Meyer of South Africa, seeking her first big title after five years in the Marathon ranks, at 5-1.

Among the others who might feature are South Korea's 21-year-old national pulled out of what would have record holder, Kwon Eun-Ju,

who was ranked seventh in the world last year, and Mexico's Adriana Fernandez, who led for much of last year's London race before finishing seventh, and went on to take second place in last year's New York Marathon in 2: 26:33.

Also in the frame is Nicole Carroll, a 27-year-old Queenslander who took up running in preference to a promising tennis career. She had established herself in the same national junior squad as Pat Rafter.

Chepchumba, who made her mark in top class marathon running when she finished as runner-up to McColgan in London three years ago, added an- marks in the all-time women's other major title last year when list, because 10 of them were

she won in Chicago. Married with a son, she lives in Germany, where her training partners include Tegla Loroupe, the Kenyan who established an all time women's best of 2; 20:47 at last year's Rotterdam marathon, where she was paced

throughout by male runners, Many observers believed this broached the spirit of marathon running, and the London organisers have taken the lead in espousing the cause of women only races and thereby made the \$125,000 (£75,000) bonus for a world best considerably easier to achieve. They have discounted the top 11

women could being paced by opposite sex. Th performance in was the 2:21:4 Naoko Takaha last year's Ban because the ra point rather ti

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QUOTES OF THE WEEK

I would have loved to have scored this one. It was one of the great goals of modern-day football. Diego Maradona on Ryan Giggs' match-winner for Manchester United

against Arsenal in the FA

Cup semi-final

I am fine at Juventus. It does not bother me if some of my team-mates are better paid than me. I am already happy with what I have got. Zinedine Zidane.

If the posts had been two yards apart instead of 10, then it would have made little difference. Wales coach Graham Henry on Neil Jenkins' last-second conversion to

beat England. We ripped them to pieces. It is only when I wake up one day later that I will really believe we have lost. England coach Clive Woodward.

England must have a chance of winning because of the home advantage, although no host country has won the event. Bob Willis on England's chances in the cricket World Cup.

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Wasim

India 125; Pakistan 129-2 Pakistan win by eight wkts PAKISTAN EASILY took the Coca-Cola Cup final in Sharjah vesterday. From the moment their captain Wasim Akram

took two wickets in the first over India never looked like challenging their fiercest rivals. The veteran fast bowler, who was running a temperature. dismissed the opener Sada-

gopan Ramesh and the No 3

Rahul Dravid, both leg-before

and both for nought, with the

third and fourth balls of the in-

bowle the tail-ender Ajit Agar-

kar for 20 to end India's innings

in the 45th over. He claimed 3

for 11 off eight overs to secure

the Man of the Match award.

His fast bowling partner Shoaib

Akhtar took the Man of the

the double blow as Shoaib fol-

lowed up with the dismissal of

Mohammed Azharuddin to a

simple catch in the slip by

Azhar added to India's mis-

ery baving Ajay Jadeja and

pinch-hitter Javagal Srinath

dismissed in successive overs

as India sank to 46 for 4 by the

Ganguly looked remotely com-

fortable against Pakistan's pace

Only the opener Saurav

India never recovered from

Series award.

Azhar Mahmood.

19th over

Wasim returned to clean

Feeble Essex fall to Lewis

A MATCH with all the elements BY DAVID LLEWELLYN rain, drama, heroics and even farce - of great entertainment. The edges of seats were worn thin as Leicestershire pressed relentlessly towards what was a comprehensive victory yesterday. They did not even have to bat again.

If the Essex bowling had been ineffectual, their batting was positively feeble. If it had not been for fast bowler Ashley Cowan showing his batting betters how to score runs their second-innings total would

have been even more pathetic. There was no doubt as to where the respective sides had finished last season. And the top and bottom of things on this showing is that they could well

repeat that this year. Leicestershire were ruthway with his first-innings century then came up trumps with the ball. He made the initial breakthrough when the morning was five overs old, having Paul Prichard leg before with

at Chelmsford

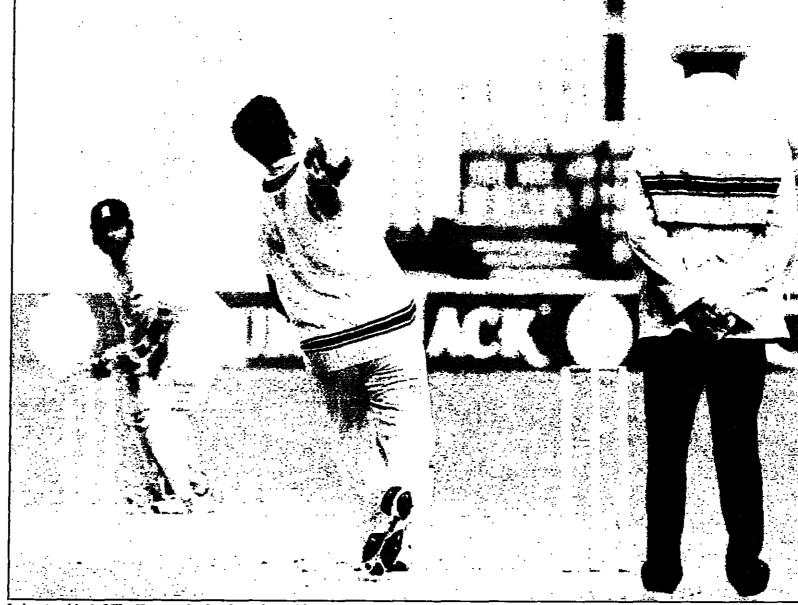
Essex 252 & 150 Leicestershire 424 Leics win by innings and 22 runs

Essex opener had been dropped on two the evening before and again when on seven vesterday justice was served.

When Lewis found the edge of Ian Flanagan's bat there were resigned shrugs among the long-suffering supporters. Lewis had a hand in the

fourth wicket to fall, a moment which bordered on pure farce, but ultimately epitomised the team-work and spirit of the defending champions.

Stuart Law had fallen low to the second ball of Jonathan Dakin's first over and on the last less. Chris Lewis, having led the ball Darren Robinson edged behind. Paul Nixon juggled frantically, finally flipping the ball to first slip where Darren Maddy chased it before he knocked it up to Lewis who took the simplest of catches, the second of six to the slick slip cordon.



Leicestershire's Mike Kasprowicz bowls to the waiting Essex batsman Robert Rollins at Chelmsford yesterday

out. No runs. No breaks. No application. Just a procession out and back in. Cowan had other ideas on his arrival after lunch and after a slow start began putting edge to ball and frustrating each bowler in turn. As his confidence increased so

And so the Essex luck ran did the area of bat he presented, when Maddy took his third so towards the end there were some genuine shots.

That spirited resolve fostered hopes of a repeat of Cowan's heroics last season when he scored his career-best 94 at Leicester. He and Mark Hott had added an annoying 39

catch to dismiss the left-hander leaving Cowan to salvage something with the last man Peter Such, who was sporting a bandage on his badly bruised right hand, a legacy of Lewis's hard-

gathering clouds overhead. As boundaries and a casually things turned out Essex were beyond redemption.

Such only had to negotiate two balls after which Cowan fell leg-before to Dakin having stuck it out for almost two hours in which time he had helped himself to half a dozen

flicked six.

There was one last huddle from Leicestershire then, as a shower - short-lived as it turned out - started to fall. they trotted in with a maximum 20 points. A champion start for the defending champions.

lunch. Sadly the sight of a ball dropped fractionally short

proved too much for Hewson to

across the line and missed.

interval to join his captain and

once the 26-year-old lost Al-

leyne, who gave Bicknell his

700th first-class wicket with

the score at 94, he grew in confidence, playing attractively on

removed Jeremy Snape with

both sides of the wicket.

attack, contributing 50 runs in 96 balls, as India made a total mess of its decision to bat first on a bland pitch. The 125 total was never a challenge for the confident Pakistan batsmen and Ijaz Ahmed and Inzamam-ul-Haq

finished the final off in style, isbury was brought into the attaking 18 off Ajit Agarkar, winning the game with 22 overs to tack for the last over before

resist and a promising innings ended leg before when he swung Windows emerged after the Total (45 overs)125 Fall: 1-0. 2-0. 3-74, 4-46, 5-50, 6-82, 7 84, 8-104, 9-122, 84, 8-104, 9-122, Bowtling: Wasim Akram 8-3-11-3 (nb2); Shoafo Akhtar 8-1-31-1 (nb4); Azhar Mahmood 10-0-31-2 (w3); Saglain Mush-rag 7-0-20-0; Arshad Khan 10-0-24-1 (nb3); Shahid Arndi 2-0-8-0. Mark Butcher gave himself a rare bowl and promptly

Only Langer will linger in memory

JUSTIN LANGER began his By JOHN COLLIS visit to the West Indies earlier this year with a century against the bost's A side and finished it with a 100 in the final Test. The contrast between Antigua and a frozen, rainwashed Lord's earlier this week called for a cautious start to his county season, and he compiled careful half-century on Wednesday. By yesterday, however, he had felt the pace of the pitch.

This was his fifth threefigure score as a Middlesex mercenary and it is a measure one of those occasions the Australian has progressed beyond 150, twice passed 200. He is not a flashy player, but waits to de-

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at Lord's

Middlesex 254 & 381-4 Kent 286 Match drawn

square. His sixes did not just upper tiers of the gleaming

stands. Kent will reflect that you simply cannot give a man of this class a second, let alone a third of his diligence that on all but chance - though by the time of three points for a draw, the stitute fielder Martin McCague spilled a slip catch off Matthew Fleming, Langer was on 133 liver a jack-hammer blow to the and the game was dead as a

contest. The first snick through diving fielders, however, came when Langer had added just a single to his overnight 14. Because all but 10 overs of

the first day were lost it took until 4.40pm on Thursday for half-volley and lazy short de-Kent to achieve parity with Midlivery, or to sweep the mis-dlesex's modest 254. That might directed ball just backward of have been the time for Fleming in his first Championship match clear the rope, they rattled the as Kent's captain to declare. The adjustment to the points system this year, however, has an inevitable drawback that balances the incentive it is designed to offer. By giving four rather than the later error when the sub- main intention is to stiffen the resolve of an underdog side, giving them greater encouragement to deny victory. But the commensurate reduction from

PPP healthcare County

Warwickshire v Northamptonshire

EDGBASTON (Day 3 of 4): Northamptonshire are trailing Warmickshire by 156 runs with 4 first-innings wick-

WARWICKSHIRE — First lunings Overnight 300-9 (Hemp 64, Malcolm 6-116)

To Bat: J P Taylor, D Follett, D E Malcolm,
Bourling: E S H Giddins 14-4-41-1, T A Munton 15,4-2-620, G Welch 16-5-47-5, D R Brown 2-0-9-0.

RIVERSIDE (Day 4 of 4): Wortestershire are trailing Durham by 17 runs with 3 second-innings wickets in hand

WORCS - First lanings 152 (Leatherdale 85, Brown 6-25)

DURHAM - First Innings Overnight 153-4 (Morris 55, Lewis

Did Not Bat: J Wood, S J E Brown. S J Harmison Bourling: A Sheriyar 18-2-69-2. J M de la Pena 22-5-106-2

D A Leatherdale 1-0-2-0, C G Liptrot 5-0-32-0, R K Illingwort 16-3-49-1, S R Lampitt 13-6-30-1, V S Solanhi 3-1-10-0.

 W P C Weston b Brown.
 0 0 0 7

 P R Pollard low b Berts
 4 0 26

 V S Solanki b Harmison
 27 0 5 67

 D A Leatherdale c Wood b Wood
 8 0 2 24

To Bat: C G Liprot. J M de la Pena.
Bowling: S J E Brown 17-5-37-1, M M Berts 12-6-22-1, J Wood 8-1-32-2, S J Harmison 17-4-37-3, M A Gough 2-1-5-0.

Implies: M.) Kitchen and A.G.T Whitehead.

Durham v Worcestershire

Durham wen 1033

Championship



balanced game.

the season's first doublewill linger longer.

Windows' power game

A GAME that had looked Sur- BY ADAM SZRETER rey's for the winning for much at The Oval of the past three days died a watery death in its final session yesterday as Gloucestershire's batsmen hung for an unlikely draw thanks to an undefeated 98 from Matt Windows and a timely cloudburst.

hitting the day before. To

heighten the tension there were

Having been set a notional target of 359 from a minimum of 84 overs, the visitors could scarcely have made a worse. start with both openers back in the pavilion inside three overs. But Windows' evecatching innings became the focal point of some belated resistance and Surrey were left to rue a sharp chance missed by Jason Ratcliffe when he had made just 33.

Mark Butcher had reached his 13th first-class century off the second ball of the day before falling to a smart catch by Kim Barnett at square leg three balls later, providing Mike Smith with his fifth wicket of

Surrey 342 & 229-7 dec Gloucestershire 213 & 209-5 Match drawn

Surrey's second innings and his ninth in the match.

By now, though, Surrey were chasing quick runs, which came courtesy of Jon Batty and Gary Butcher, who shared the majority of the 73 in 10 overs that were added to Surrey's overnight lead. Gloucestershire were soon in trouble when they replied, Bar-

bled 50 together before Ian Sal-

nett clipping a rising delivery from Alex Tudor to second slip and Tim Hancock fending meekly at a straight one outside offstump from Darren Bicknell to leave Gloucestershire on 7 for 2. Mark Alleyne and Dominic Hewson then set about repairing the damage, adding an untrou-

the benefit of a doubtful appeal for a catch behind, paving the way for Jack Russell to keep Windows company. There was much work still to be done but when the heavens opened with 20 overs still scheduled to be bowled it was much to Glouces-

tershire's relief.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Second Innings Contd

son, P.C.R. Tufnell
Bowling: D.W. Headley 15-2-45-1, J.B. Thompson 10-3-210, M.M. Patel 31-2-130-2, M.V. Fleming 15-2-44-0, A. Symonds
18-1-116-1, M.J. Vlalker 2, 1-0-14-0, E.T. Smith 1-0-3-0 Umpires: J H Harris and A Clarkson Surrey v Gloucestershire

THE FOSTER'S OVAL (Day 4 of 4): Surrey (11pts) drew with Gloucestershire (9pts)

SURREY — First loolings 342 (Ward 78, M A Butcher 68, GLOUCS - First lanings 213 (Hancock 53, Salisbury 5-44) SURREY — Second Lantags Overnight 156-5 (Smith 4-23) Second Innings Contd

GLOUCESTERSHIRE - Second Innings Did Not Batt 12 Harvey, M.C.J.Ball, J.Lewis, A.M.Smith, Bowfling; M.P.Bicknell 14-2-46-2, A.J.Tudor 13-1-54-1, G.P.Burcher 4-0-22-0, B.C. Hollicake 8.3-2-28-0, I.D.K.Sailsbury 17-7-30-1, M.A.Butcher 8-2-27-1.

Other matches

Cambridge University v Somerset FENNER'S (Day 2 of 3): Somerset are leading Cambridge University by 147 runs with 9 second-innings wickets

SOMERSET - First Innings 338-1 dec. (Bowler 140no. Cox 135) CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY — First lankings Overnight 13-1

Runs 66 4s Bis Min

i Monammed c Turner b Nerr 110 0 16 195 244

k D M Walker c Turner b Pierson 31 0 5 152 192

j P Pyemont flow b Burns 28 0 6 46 50

A R Danson not out 9 0 1 19 12

Extras (b5 103 w6) 14

Total (for 4 dec. R1 Total (for 4 dec, 81 overs) Fall: 1-0, 2-107, 3-157, 4-230.

KENT — First frings 286 (Key 86, Symonds 69, Hewitt 5-50) MIDDLESEX — Second Innings Overnight 29-1 MIDDLESEX — Second Innings Overnight 29-1 Primott, C A Sayers. **Bowling:** P W Jarvis 9.3-4-20-1, M Bulbeck 15-1-63-0, I Cox 7.3-1-36-0. G D Rose 13-6-21-0. A R k Pierson 20-8-35-1. SOMERSET -- Second Inclings Runs 6s As Bis Min

M Bulbeck, A.R.K. Plerson, P.W. Jarvis.

Bowling: C.R. Pimlott 8-1-13-0, R.G. Halsall 7-0-34-1, C.A.
Sayers 1-0-1-0.

Oxford University v Hampshire THE PARKS (Day 3 of 3): Oxford University drew with

Umpires: A A Jones and N G Cowley

Harabare win toss HAMPSHIRE - First Innings 397-5 dec. (Stephenson 136

Aymes 69, Kenway S6no) OXFORD UNIVERSITY - First linnings Overnight 115-7 First innings Contd

Total (84 overs) 191
Fall: 1-23, 2-36, 3-36, 4-56, 5-61, 6-70, 7-98 8-163, 9-167
Bowling: 5 Lugsden 13-5-31-0, A C Morris 20-7-30-4, S J
Renshow 11-5-13-1, A D Muscarennas 14-5-38-2, S D Udal 18-7-36-2, G W White 1-0-7-0, J P Stephenson 7-3-19-1. HAMPSHIRE — Second Innings

shaw, 5 Lugsden.

Bowling: D Kino 10-2-50-0, S H Khan 7-2-23-0, T C Hicks

OXFORD UNIVERSITY - Sec Runs 6s 4s Bis Min N G Pirihi Ibw o Mascarenhas......19 0 2 39 49

Total (for 3, 16 overs) Fall: 1-17, 2-24, 3-27. Did Not Bat: J A G Fulton, 1) P B Barnes, D Kino, T C Hicks, Bowling: S J Renshaw 6-3-12-1, J P Stephenson 5-0-11-0, A D Mascarenhas 3-1-2-2, S D Udal 2-0-5-0,

Umpires: T E Jesty and J W Lloyds. Today's fixtures (11 00 unless stated) PPP HEALTHCARE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (day 4 of

4) Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Northamptonshire CGU NCL - DIVISION ONE (1 day) Leicester: Leicestershire Foxes v Hampshire Hawks (13.30) OTHER MATCH (day 3 of 3) Femmers: Cambridge University v Somerset (11.30).

and the second Welch's five-star return to form

WARWICKSHIRE HAVE built BY JON CULLEY their success around players of at Edgbaston all-round talent and will do so again this year, when what the lower-middle order does will often be significant. In that respect, this match augurs well. and I've tried to develop an in-After Dougie Brown's blossom- swinger to give the batsmen ing with the bat, Graeme Welch yesterday announced a return to form with the ball.

1.752 هور ا On another day disrupted by 1 - 10 2025 the weather, Welch bowled 14 20 fours ending on 142 -Vigential of the overs either side of lunch to re- Northamptonshire started purturn 5 for 47 as the visitors lost an appropriately six wickets in 43 overs. Manager Laire The 27-year-old right-armer

had not taken five in an innings since August 1007 Cit wall little return of his career. Since then he has been translated season of limited opportunities under the former suffered and I did not bowl weich said. Brian tended to prefer Dougie (Brown) and Ed (Giddine) The second second "I tended to bowl outswing short of the follow-on.

Warwickshire 323

Northamptonshire 167-6

more to think about."

After Warwickshire added 23 to their overnight score -Brown's 325-minute innings of posefully, Matthew Hayden's first five scoring strokes racing

But after Welch struck his since August 1997, when he first blow, Rob Bailey snicking took 11 Lancashire wickets at a catch to first slip, this early Blackpool, the best match promise was undermined. Hayden cut into gully's hands, Mal Loye edged a full drive and 42 for 1 became 66 for 3. Russell Warren and David Sales made good progress, but then Warren played around the Welch inswinger and Tony Penberthy well," Welch said. "Brian was bowled. When Giddins had Graeme Swann caught at third slip, the visitors were still 20

Help for Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA have recruited a in Brishane from the Caribbean real formation of the second s Pakistani psychologist to help yesterday after pneumonia restore their confidence for the forced him out of the one-day World Cup. The chief executive series against the West Indies. officer of the Sri Lankan Cricket naments and last month's management crisis have seriously affected team morale and fresh motivation is

the William Can

The Queensland seamer's

presence in English conditions is considered vital to Australia's hopes of regaining the World Cup, with Dale's nagging style providing the foil for Glenn McGrath.

"It's getting better and over the last week there's been a lot will be fit to play in next month's of improvement so I'm defi-World Cup. Dale arrived home nitely on the mend," he said.

Last year Langer scored

16 to 12 points for a win may stifle the impulse of both captains to agree to a gamble in a

century. This year had made the earliest in Championship history. The game may soon be forgotten but memories of Langer

Essex v Leicestershire

Second Innings Contd

3-1-12-0

ESSEX — First Innings 252 (Prichard 91)

ESSEX — Second Innings Overnight 2-0

CHELMSFORD (Day 4 of 4): Leicestershire (20pts) beat

LEICS - First landings 424 (Lewis 139 Nixon 121 Irani 4

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 4 of 4): Lancashire (10pts) drew

SUSSEX - First Innings Overnight 285-5 (Peirce 77 Mont

| Runs 6s 4s Bis Min | N Wnod c Adams b Robinson | ... 22 0 0 47 61 | M Chilton C Montgomerie b Nrtley | ... 87 1 12 142 193 | P Crawley b Pobinson | ... 0 0 1 12 142 193 | P C McReuwn Ibw b Robinson | 10 0 0 23 30 0 D Hoyd c Montgomerie b Rashd | 46 0 2 66 46

Total (for 8 dec, 69.3 overs)301 Fall: 1-43, 2-53, 3-81, 4-181, 5-183, 6-188, 7-215, 8-244

Did Not Bat: M P Smethurst Bowling: R J kirtley 20-5-70-1, R S C Martin-Jenkins 15-0-63-0, M A Robinson 15-0-62-4, U B A Rashid 18 3-4-90-3,

LORD'S (Day 4 of 4): Middlesex (10pts) drew with Kent

MIDDLESEX - First Inclings 254 (Nash 62ng, Lunger 55)

Umpires: N A Mullender and G Sharp

Middlesex v Kent

Runs 6s 4s Bis Min

P M Such not out 0 0 0 0 Extras (lb1 w2 nb6) 9

Umpires: P Julian and P Palmer

LANCASHIRE — First lanings

Lancashire v Sussex

Hrst Innings Contd

Langer: Double-century

Tigers tune in to Saracens' TV misery



GIVEN THE number of casualties they have suffered this season it would not be unreasonable to list the Leicester Tigers as an endangered species. The injuries have proliferated in particular in the threequarters, cutting deep into the creative core of the side.

Will Greenwood and Joel Stransky are the most notable absentees, but over the months they have been deprived of the services of Nnamdi Ezulike, Leon Lloyd and, for various reasons, Austin Healey. As the team manager, Dean Richards, explained, after breaking off from preparations for today's Allied Dunbar Premiership

RUGBY UNION

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN

match against Saracens at gestion. Welford Road, "It's been a nightmare for us. We have suffered so much disruption in the threequarters as a result that we have been swapping and switching players from week to week, which has not helped us

Leicester's position at the top of the Premiership table is all the more worthy, then, and owes as much to the strength in depth of their squad as it does to their powerful pack. Inevitably there have been

charges of Leicester eschewing the wide game and recameras." That is something of maining forward-orientated. but Richards rebuts the sug-

"We are not that boring a side," he said. "We have a powerful pack and so we may as well use it, but we are still top of the try-scoring list. We have scored 68 tries to Saracens' 67 in the Allied Dunbar Premiership." Even if some of those scores

pushovers. Richards has a point. When they are firing, the Tigers can strike from any position. That the match is to be tele-

have come from line-outs and

tomorrow's match means a hell of a lot to us." vised by Sky is not welcome Sarries, meanwhile, are not news to Saracens. Mark Evans

an understatement. Being

of the five games in which they

have been followed by the cam-

eras the north London club

has lost four.

iting the Tigers' den.

"We do not perform well for the We have a realistic chance of winning at Welford Road," Evans said. "It is a tough seatelegenic does not come into it: son for everyone. We are tired, but so are they. We have had a few injuries, so have they."

With a tightly packed group chasing hard to get into Europe Not that Leicester will take injuries could decide the fate of any notice. Richards said: "We have lost two out of the last one of the most crucial blows to three matches against them Saracens' hopes is the loss of the top two are already there." and the third one was a draw, Paul Wallace, who needs an opso out of a possible six points eration on a groin condition and we have managed just one. is out for the rest of the season. That is disappointing. So

Newcastle are at the back of the pack and have to wait until tomorrow, when they tackle

their director of rugby admitted: overawed at the prospect of vis- Wasps at Loftus Road, but Rob Andrew, their director of rugby, is another confident man.

"We are seventh, but I don't think Harlequins and Richmond, in eighth and ninth, can do enough to climb into the top six," he said. "But I believe we can hoist ourselves that one crucial place higher, so to me it looks like five teams comthe few and in the light of that peting for the four places between third and sixth, given that

> Two more sides who are scrapping for a European place are Bath, in third place and beginning to motor again after a mid-season hiccup or two, and London Irish, in fourth. They

meet at Sunbury but Bath are without Jeremy Guscott, who is still troubled by a hamstring problem, while the Exiles will be without scrum-half Kevin Putt (Achilles tendon) and

Justin Bishop (ankle). Harlequins take on the bottom club, Bedford, with their brilliant goal-kicker, John Schuster, certain to pass 300 points for the season and with a total of seven more matches. including today's at The Stoon. he could hit 400.

His current total of 296 is a Premiership record and took the former All Black and current Western Samoan a mere 19 matches to compile.

Humphreys out to impress

HAVING SPENT the past seven weeks banging his head against brick walls and battling to contain his frustration, the Cardiff and Wales hooker Jonathan Humphreys is back in business.

Humphreys underwent surgery on his back after acute pain meant his withdrawal from the Five Nations' Championship game against Ireland. but has fought to put himself back in the international frame.

There can be no better stage on which to impress your national coach - Graham Henry in this case - than a Swalec Cup semi-final tie against the 10times winners, Llanelli, just before Henry names his squad to tour Argentina.

The two teams lock horns today at Brewery Field, Bridgend, while tomorrow at Pontypridd, Swansea, fellow rebels and city slickers, meet Cross

Keys of the First Division. So what price an all-rebel final? Humphreys believes Cardiff can prevent Llanelli from reaching a 14th final. "Firstly, I am glad to be back after what seems to have been an eternity. Secondly I can think of no better way to prove myself than playing in a Cup

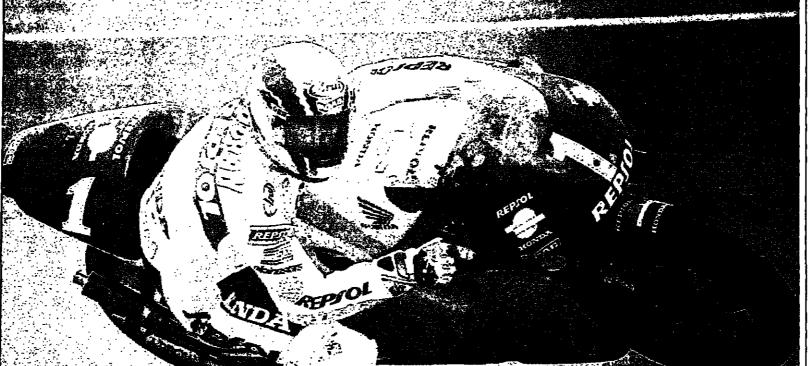
Surprisingly Llanelli have omitted the Welsh lock Chris Wyatt, but Scott Quinnell, who played a significant part in Wales' victory over England at Wembley last Sunday, is named

However, Colin Charvis, the Swansea and Wales flanker, will miss his side's game against Cross Keys after suffering a fractured cheekbone in the tackle from Tim Rodber that, indirectly, led to the winning try from Scott Gibbs. Gibbs definitely plays, as

does Garin Jenkins, but Arwel Thomas and Darren Morris are both struggling to be fit. Keys' coach, David Rees, said, "The boys have been play-

ing well this season and we will certainly give it our best shot." Cardiff (v Llaneill, boday, 5.30, Bridgend): M Rayer S Hill, L Davies, G Thomas, C Morgan; L Jarvis, R Howley, S John, J Humphreys, D Young (capt), J Tait, D Jones, G Kacala, E Lewis, D Baugh. Lianelli: B Hayward; W Proctor, N Boobyer, N Davies, S Finau; S Jones, R Mcon: P Booth, R McBryde (capt), J Davies, V Cooper, M Voyle, H Jenkins, S Quinnell, I Boobyer.

Cross Meys (v Saransea, tomorrom, 2.30, Pontypridd): I Betb: I Vernali, S Resc (capt), C Bushell, R Nichols: D Ress. C Ellis: I Evans, I. Gardner, D Crimmins, N Kelly, M Price, J Powell, P Watkins, S Gardner, rince, a roweit, r Waduns, S Gardner. Swamseax D Weatherley, R Rees, M Tayloi S Gibbs (capt), M Robinson; A Thomas o L Davies, R Jones; D Morts or C Loader, (Jenkins, B Evans, T Maullin, A Moore, f Morlarty, L Jones, D Thomas.



MICK DOOHAN, motorcycling's five times world 500cc champion, banks his NSR Honda in qualfying practice for tomorrow's Malaysian Grand Prix at the newly built Sepang circuit. The Australian's challenge to retain his title for the six successive season began badly yes-

terday as he crashed on the first corner. Kenny Roberts Jnr. riding a Suzuki, and Carlos Checa, on a Yamaha, also fell off their bikes, the Spaniard crashing after his factory YZR500 burst into flames. His team-mate, Max Biaggi. finished second. behind the American John

Kocinski, whose time of 2min 6.848sec on a Honda at the 3.47-mile circuit does not guarantee him a place in the front row for the opening race of the GP season. The qualifying round to determine pole position will be held today Times: Digest, page 25; Vincent Thian/PA | May.

Elite set for first play-offs

SLOUGH AND Cannock, who both won their leagues with points to spare, compete for the formal title of champions at the inaugurai Premier League play-offs at Reading HC this weekend. But the more important prize is a place in Europe

next year, writes Bill Colwill. With the object of the playoffs to provide a pressurised testing ground for elite players. the weekend's cost will be met largely from Lottery funding and a feast of high-class hockey is expected.

Today's programme starts with the teams having finished third and fourth in the leagues - High Town take on Clifton Scottish Life and, for the men, Reading are up against Canterbury. That is followed by the first and second teams, Slough against Ipswich and Cannock against Southgate.

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Tomorrow will see the winners of the third/fourth games playing the losers of the first/second games, with the play-off finals being held at Milton Keynes on Monday 3

THE INDEPENDENT Champagne Breaks

The Independent/Independent on Sunday have joined forces with SeaFrance European Life to offer you excellent discounts on holidays to Champagne. From just £49 per person you can take a break in the heart of the Champagne region, inclusive of return ferry crossing, two nights' accommodation and a complimentary bottle of champagne on your arrival.

WHAT YOUR CHAMPAGNE BREAK INCLUDES

Travel with SeaFrance from Dover to Calais on any one of the 15 daily crossings and start your holiday to France the moment you step on board. Once in the famous Champagne region you can visit the major champagne cellars such as Mercier and Moët, where guided tours give you an insight into the whole magical champagne production process. While you are there, you can make excellent savings by stocking up on as much champagne as you can carry for your own celebrations at home. With its expertise in tailormaking self-drive holidays to France, SeaFrance European Life has specially selected four hotels for this exclusive offer, ranging from two to four stars.

TO BOOK YOUR CHAMPAGNE BREAK

Simply call SeaFrance European Life on 0870 242 4455, quoting The Independent Champagne Offer. To qualify for your offer you must collect four of the ten tokens printed in The Independent and The Independent on Sunday from Friday 9 April to Sunday 18 April (inclusive). At least one of the tokens must be from The Independent on Sunday. Then, to validate your offer after booking, send your tokens with the completed application form to The Independent Champagne Offer, SeaFrance European Life, 10 Kerry Street, Leeds, LS18 4AW. Please note that all bookings must be made between 10



Epernay, Le Thibault IV

Situated 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region, Le Thibault offers a good standard of accommodation, with reasonably sized rooms and en suite bathrooms. The hotel's restaurant is well known across the Champagne area, serving both

gastronomic menus and champagne dinners. The hotel can агтаnge a free visit to local wine-cellars and, although this does not include wine-tasting, we're sure that it will be an insight

Forêt d'Orient

into the Champagne world!

Beautiful natural setting, in the heart of the Champagne region, between two lakes for water sports and on an 18hole golf course, 15km from medieval Troyes and 100km from the Epernay champagne cellars. Relax around the heated pool, enjoy a round of golf or archery (both

playable locally), or exercise in the free fitness room. The generous-sized rooms offer satellite TV, telephone and lovely bathrooms with separate w.c. The restaurant has a poolside terrace offering good-value menus. Family rooms available.



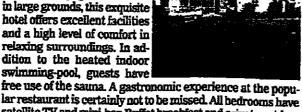
PARTICIPATING HOTELS

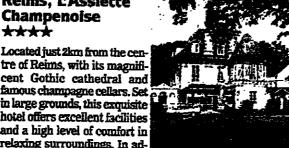
The village of Vertus lies 20km south of Epernay on the Champagne Route in the heart of the Champagne region. The charm and warmth offered by the Hostellerie de la Reine Blanche is quite typical of the hotels in this region. The hotel has a swimming-pool sauma and fitness room and the bed-

rooms are large and sumptuously decorated, with en suite bathrooms. The Hostellerie also boasts wine-cellars holding vintages dating back to 1929 to accompany its restaurant's fine

Reims, L'Assiette Champenoise

Located just 2km from the centre of Reims, with its magnificent Gothic cathedral and famous champagne cellars. Set in large grounds, this exquisite hotel offers excellent facilities and a high level of comfort in relaxing surroundings. In ad-





lar restaurant is certainly not to be missed. All hedrooms have satellite TV and mini-bar Buffet breakfast and private outdoor

The Independent Champagne Offer 0870 242 4455

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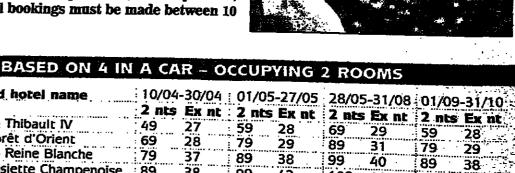
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All prices shown are per person and in pounds sterling

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1. This offer is valid for bookings made direct with Seafrance European Life between 10 April 1999 and 30 April 1999. 2. Supplement £10 per person for travel 30 April 1999 to 4 May 1999 and for travel at weekends (Friday - Sunday) between 28 May 1999 and 26 September 1999. 3. Alternative hotels may be offered at time of booking, subject to availability. 4. This offer may not be used in conjunction with any other may be accompanied by the supplementary of the suppleme

SEATRANCE.

THE INDEPENDEN

Bulls' coach promises a potent mix

BRADFORD PRODUCED their best form of the year so far when they demolished them in the Challenge Cup, so it will come as no reassurance to Warrington tomorrow that the Bulls have five key players back on duty for the pick of this weekend's Super League fix-

with brother Robbie for New Zealand's Test in Sydney after the game - Michael Withers. and Mike Forshaw are all added to the team that looked lack-lustre in beating Wakefield last week. "It gives us a much more potent look," said their coach, Matthew Elliott. with some understatement.

Warrington, ahead of Bradford on points difference in entertain Gateshead who have fourth place, lost their unbeaten Super League record at Wigan last weekend, so this is short-term contract to begin a test of their ability to regroup.

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They are still without their 15 May. stand-off, Scott Wilson, while Danny Nutley's injury costs him an ever-present record stretching back over a year. with Gary Chambers stepping in and Andy Leatham, on loan from St Helens, making his debut from the bench.

BY DAVE HADFIELD

tive. Peter Deakin, has achieved one of his objectives by having the ground's capacity raised to 9,000, a figure which could be tested today.

Saints, unbeaten at the top Henry Paul - due to fly out of the table, have Chris Joynt in their starting line-up for the first time in Super League, in place of Paul Davidson, who has Tevita Vaikona. Stuart Spruce a neck injury. Opponents Sheffield Eagles have won their last three matches to emphasise that they must be treated with respect and could have Matt Crowther and Martin Pearson in their squad at Knowsley Road

Third-placed Castleford signed the Newcastle Falcons back-rower Steve O'Neill on a after the Pilkington Cup final on

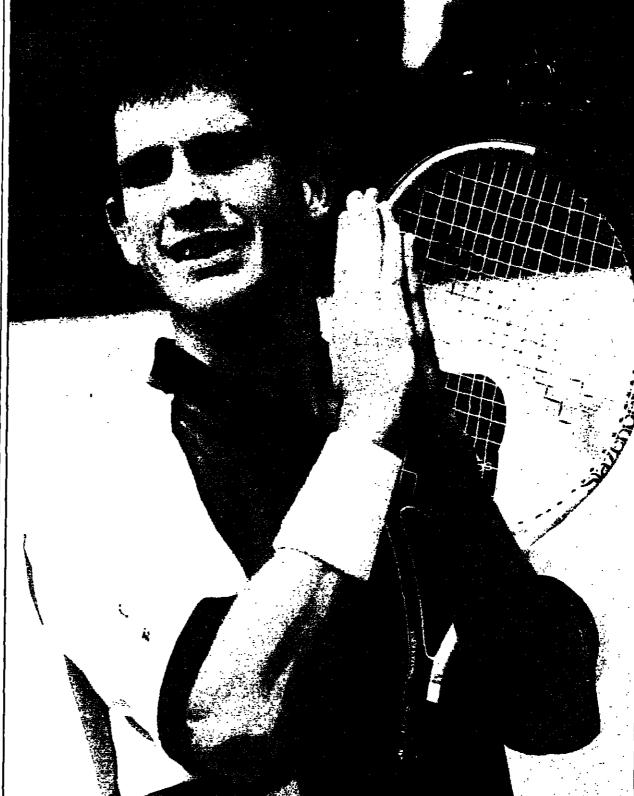
"I think he will do well," said the Gateshead chief executive, Shane Richardson, of the player who had trials with Bradford last year. "He is a Geordie and he loves to mix it

former Featherstone full-back, Steve Collins, making his first start. Castleford - the Thunder's first ever opponents in a pre-season friendly - expect Aaron Raper to recover from an ankle injury. Wakefield Trinity welcome

back two Kiwis, Tony Kemp and Frank Watene, for the visit of London, who, with Rob Smyth still not ready, bring in Chris Ryan as the replacement for Brett Warton on the right wing. Matt Salter also returns after a lay-off through concussion.

With three of his most consistent players - Gary Broadbent, David Hulme and Malcolm Alker - all missing, the Salford coach, Andy Gregory, has little room for manoeuvre against Huddersfield. He switches Paul Carige and Bobby Thompson as the Reds look for their first Super League points.

Wigan have confirmed that they are interested in buying their rugby union neighbours, Orrell, out of administration. The club would continue to play at Edge Hall Lane, while Wigan would use the ground for training and reserve matches, The Super League new boys but Orrell have expressed The club's new chief execu- have their centre, Brett Grogan, reservations about the idea.



Tim Henman seeks help during his 6-1, 6-4 defeat against Francisco Clavet in Barcelona yesterday

Henman crashes out on the clay

TIM HENMAN'S bid to prove he can get to grips with clay suffered a setback vesterday as the Spaniard Francisco Clavet beat him 6-1, 6-4 in the second round of the Barcelona Open.

Clay is the British No 1's least favourite surface and he never looked like getting the better of Clavet in a match delayed by rain.

Henman lost the opening four games of the first set and Clavet, who reached the last 16 at Wimbledon last year, took it

Having taken time to settle, Henman found some form at the start of the second set and established a 4-2 lead. But a double fault in the next game enabled Clavet to break back. and the Spaniard, having regained the initiative, went on to wrap up a straight sets victory.

Injuries to the top two seeds Pete Sampras and Carlos Moya - meant that Henman was the second highest seed remaining in the event, yet the Briton's preparations for the French Open had got off to a good start when he defeated Argentina's Mariano Puerta in three sets in the opening round.

In Tokyo, the former Wimbledon champion Richard Kraiicek, of the Netherlands, was the biggest quarter-final casualty of the Japan Open when he was beaten by Sweden's Jonas The Dutch top seed failed to

keep his momentum as he went down 6-3, 5-7, 1-6. It was Bjorkman's second straight win over Kraiicek - and the world No 32 will now take on the German Nicolas Kiefer, who defeated another Swede, Thomas En-

Gretzky calls time on stunning career

WAYNE GRETZKY was due to announce his retirement last night, bringing to an end a ca- BY KEN RAPPOPORT reer in ice hockey matched only by Gordie Howe.

ber yesterday seeking consent believable rates. Now, as Gretfor a motion in the House of zky contemplates an end to his Commons asking Gretzky to delay his retirement.

Fighting back tears and clearly struggling to control his emotions, the North American National Hockey League's career scoring leader told a news conference on Thursday night that his decision to retire is all but final. "All indications are obviously pointing in that direction," Gretzky said after helping the New York Rangers earn a 2-2 draw with Ottawa Senators. "I'm really at peace

in my mind about this thing." If Thursday night was Gretzky's final game in Canada, it was some farewell party. The 18,449 fans lucky enough to acquire a ticket to the Corel Center saw to that. With 4:43 left in the third period and the score tied 2-2, the fans began to chant "One more year" as the teams headed to their benches for a time-out. Gretzky raised his stick and waved at the crowd.

The Canadian parliament of Gretzky since he was a and more in Canada his sucen got involved, with a mem- youngster, scoring goals at un- cess, transformed, him, into a 20-year career, Canada is awash in end-of-an-era retrospection, as if this one player's departure from hockey is on a par with the end of the millennium.

"In a country sceptical of success and wary of evanescent heroes, Wayne Gretzky became an icon, for what he accomplished with his athletic genius and just as important, the dignity and class of his character," wrote the Globe and Mail's political columnist, Jeffrey Simpson. Canadians know his story by

heart, how at two years old he started taking practice shots with a sponge ball at his grandmother in her easy chair, how his father. Walter built a rink in their backyard in Brantford. Ontario, when Wayne was three. When Gretzky was eight, he scored 104 goals in 62 games. When he was 10, he scored 378 goals in 82 games. By 14 he had scored well over 1,000 goals and was a celebrity.

His achievements brought worldwide fame – four Stanley Cups with the Edmonton Oilers. more than 60 NHL records, nine Canadians have been aware most valuable player awards, national treasure. Few Canadians in any field, including politics and entertainment, have ever been subject to such coastto-coast adulation and scrutiny.

Gretzky's courtship of Janet Jones in the mid-1980s was covered breathlessly by Canadian media their wedding in June 1988 depicted as the closest Canada could come to a royal wedding. But the euphoria was broken two months later by shocking news - the Oilers' owner, Peter Pocklington. was trading Gretzky to the Los Angeles Kings. "It's like ripping the heart out of the city." Edmonton's

mayor, Laurence Decore, said. Gretzky wept at a farewell news conference, and Canadians engaged in post mortems as to whether Pocklington or Gretzky's new wife bore the bulk of the blame. Soon after his trade to the Kings, Grtezky made a point of saying he would not change citizenship. "I'm Canadian to the core, and always will be," he said.

JET LAG caught up with Lee

Westwood as he failed to keep up with the pace set by Taiwan's BY PHIL CASEY Open. Chang fired a six-underpar 65 to better the Macau Golf and Country Club course record - set by Westwood and South Korea's Kang Wook soon in the first round - and lead the Asian PGA Tour event on the eight-under total of 134.

Westwood and Kang dropped back into joint second place, a struke behind Chang after both players added a 69 to their 66 on the opening day.

"I didn't feel on top form," said Westwood, who finished tied sixth in last week's US Masters. "Physically I didn't feel great. I woke up very early with the jet lag. I can't do anything about that, I am getting a bit tired after five weeks on the trot. The flight across has caught up with me. I definitely

feel a bit sickly tired today." The Englishman managed to birdie three out of his last six holes to stay in contention. "I wasn't feeling particularly well before I went out so I wasn't looking for a great deal. I woke

up at 5.30 this morning," said Westwood. Chang, a distant cousin of

the tennis player Michael Chang, had no such problems and made an eagle, six birdles and two bogies over the 6,662yard par-71 course. His round was completed in sensational fashion when he holed a 50-foot putt for a birdie.

Chris Williams, who opened with a 67, slipped back with a second-round 72 to be five shots off the pace while Darren Clarke added a 70 to his opening 72 to lie eight strokes behind Chang.

Nick Faldo has made an encouraging start to the MCI Classic at Hilton Head in South Carolina as he attempts to resurrect his season and earn a place in Europe's Ryder Cup team, Cup captain Mark James has warned Faldo he can expect no special treatment as he struggles to qualify for the European team to face America in September.

rankings following an appalling only 39th in the Ryder Cup points table. The six-times major winner's woes continued at the Masters last week when he shot 80 in the first round and

missed the cut for the third straight year since winning his last major at Augusta in 1996. However, the 41-year-old fired a two-under-par firstround 69 at the windswept Harbour Town Golf Links to finish in a group of 14 players four

shots behind the joint leaders, Jeff Maggert and Steve Flesch. Colin Montgomerie is two shots further back on the levelpar score of 71.

Sergio Garcia, who with Jose Maria Olazabal celebrated a brilliant Spanish double at the Masters last Sunday, has confirmed that he is to make his professional debut at the Spanish Open next week. Hours before Olazabal won his second Masters title the 19-year-old Garcia clinched the silver cup awarded each year to the lead-

ing amateur at Augusta.

Westwood back to earth Bullets face a The former world No 1 has slumped to joint 99th in the Simms setback

BIRMINGHAM BULLETS coach Mike Finger hopes hand injuries to Tony Simms and Fabulous Flournoy will not stop them facing Budweiser League runners-up Manchester Giants in tonight's decisive third game of their play-off quarter-final series at the MEN arena.

Simms, an outstanding three-point shooter, injured his thumb in Birmingham's 82-74 win in the first game in the series, but missed Thursday's 78-71 defeat against Giants in Manchester, Flournoy dislocated the little finger of his right hand just before half-time on Thursday but returned late in the game.

"Fab is very likely to play," Finger said. "There is no break and although he has some pain and swelling, it's nothing that should stop him. Tony is less likely to play. There is a chance we could immobilise his thumb to prevent further injury, but it really is unlikely.

"He is an out and out scor-

BASKETBALL

ing threat for us and we will miss him, but I have to give a lot of credit for the way Emiko Etete stepped up on Thursday."

Etete led Bullets' scorers with 20 points and when they led by 10 in the second half the League's seventh-placed team were poised to end Manchester's bid to reach the finals at Wembley in two weeks' time. But a 16-4 run inspired by the former Bullet Tony Dorsey reestablished Giants as

favourites for tonight's game. sessions without explanation.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 9 Monreal 4: San Francisco 5 Houston 2; Colorado 6 San Dego 4; Florida 11 NY Mets
k; too Angeles 8 Arizona 1. Phot poned:
St Louis v Pittsburgh; Cincinna v Chicago Cubs; Atlanta v Philadelphia.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Anaheim 12 Oakland 1: Chicago 4 Boscon 0: Texas 4 Searte 3 (10th Irmings); Minnesota 8 Detroit
S; Toronto 11 Tarnya Bay 1; Baltimore 9
NY Yankees 7. Postponed: Kansas City
v Cleveland.

BASKETBALL

Dennis Rodman may have played his last game for the Los Angeles Lak-ers, following the latest in a series of odd behavioural episodes involving the former NBA All-Star. Rodman was sent home from training on Thursday after showing up late and apparently forgetting to bring any socks and shoes.

NERS Dallas 101 Minnesota 95; Houston 86 Pertland 76; Golden State 85 Denver 79; Utah 103 LA Clippers 89; Seattle 99 Sacramento 98 (of).

BUDIVEISER CHAMPIONSKIP Play-offs, second leg (Thur): London Tow-ers 91 Newcastle Eagles 76; Manchester

BOWLS

BOWLS

MEN'S ALL ENGLAND CHAMPIONSMIPS (Melton Mombray) Pairs semimaist Five Rivers bt Desborough 19-14;
Blackpool Borough br Acle 26-6. Singles
First round: R Newman (Whitelenights) bt
M Christmas (Noth Walsham) 21-6; P
Alexander (Nottingham) bt S Reading
(Barking) 21-17; S Nutman (Dorchester) bt
i Homes (Herts) 21-4; P Butther (Cyphers)
bt A Friend (Ipswich) 21-71; J Evans
(Roquay) bt S Mead (Fondill) 21-9; S Collingham (Pinewood Park) bt A Allcock (Peroiswell) 21-19; S Sketton (Scunthorpe) bt S
Maxted (Mole Valley) 21-10, G Moon
(Awon Valley) bt P Bennett (Bodmin) 2111; S Nutman (Dorchester) bt J Homes
(Herts) 21-4; P Butther (Cyphers) bt A
Friend (Ipswich) 21-11; D Evans (Forquay)
tt S Mead (Fouhill) 21-8; S Collingham
(Pinewood Park) bt A Allcock (Perdiswell)
21-19; S Section (Scunthorpe) bt S Maxed
(Mole Valley) 21-10; G Moon (Awon Valley)
bt P Bennett (Bodmin) 21-11; P Wand (Atherley) bt P Maynard (Essex County) 21-15;
G Harlow (City of Ely) bt D Bott (Sunderland) 21-5; M Pooling (Grantham) bt R
Probert (Victoria: Street) 21-12; D Dyer
(Eestbourne) bt M Milizate (Angel) 21-15;
S Thomas (Leicester) bt P Wand (Destor-

ough: Northants] 21-14; M Hopkins (Paddington) bt A Athinson (Huddersfield) 21-11; G Shadwell (Christic Miller) bt I Jackson (Hartepool) 21-16; A Little (Cumbria) bt I Pooling (Victory) 21-2 Second Round-Second roomed: R Newman (Whitekinghis) bt P. Alexander (Nottingham) 21-10; P. Butcher (Cyphers) bt S. Nauran (Docheszer) 21-11; S Collingham (Pinewood Park) bt Jerans (Torquay) 21-18; S Skelton (Scunthorpe) bt G Moon (Auon Valley) 21-13; Horlow bt Ward 21-3; Pooling bt Dyer 21-11; Thomas bt Hopkins 21-7; Little bt Shadwell 21-18

WOMEN'S WORLD INDOOR SINGLES

well 21-10 WORLD INDOOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Prestwick) Send-fi-nals: C McAllister (Sco) bt A Simon (Guernsey) 6-7 7-0 1-7 7-5 7-5, K Adams (Sco) bt A Merrien (Guernsey) 7-6 1-7 7-4 7-5

SCO) bt A Meriten (Guernsey) 7-61-7-7-4
7-5
GREENALLS SPRING MATERLOO
(Blackpool) Second rounds J Hall (New
Mills) bt G Fellows (Meltham) 21-14:1 Bates
(Sandbach) bt D Heaton (Migan) 21-20: P
Bradley (Bollington) bt T Wells (Maghull)
21-18: P Sigsworth (Meltham) bt R McKernan (Bollington) 21-2: S Hrist (Meltham)
bt G Coleman (Carlton) 21-16. L rliggintottom (Thornton) bt G Higgins (Meaverham) 21-12: R Mazley (Meltham) bt K
Hewitt (Meaverham) 21-17: P Wilding
(Preston) bt K Campbell (Sutton Coldfield)
21-7: C Campbell (Blackburn) bt J Asphall
(Meltham) 21-17: G Parkinson (Migan) bt
L Haylor (Surton Coldfield) 21-13: T King
(Fidel) bt A James (Sutton Coldfield)
11: A Downs (Stockport) bt R Betty
(Thornton) 21-14.

CYCLING

The French rider Richard Virenque will appear in court in Ulle on Monday to answer charges of "complicity in helping others obtain and use il-legal performance-enhancing sub-stances" in the Festina doping case. Virenque was first placed under investigation last month.

FOOTBALL The Italian Football Federation has confirmed that Italy's friendly with

Croatia on 28 April in Zagreb will go The Australian international goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer said yes-terday that he did not want to play for his country next season but wan ed to concentrate instead on his club career with Middlesbrough. ASIAM CUP-WINNERS CUP Semi-R-nais: Al Itahad (S Arabla) 3 Al Talaba (Iraq) 1; Kashima Antiers (Japan) 1 Chunnam Dragons (S Kor) 4.

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER: Miami Fusion 1 Dallas Burn 1 (Miami won shoot-out).

SPORTING DIGEST

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Fifa World Youth Champlomship second round: (Ibadan, Nigeria): Meuco 4 Argenton 1: (Enugu): Mali 5 Carreron 4 (Moli win with evira time golden goot) French League: Muscilles 4 (Do Sha 30, Gourcennet 57, Rawanelli 62, Maurice 79) Nancy 0. UniBond League Premier Division: Guiscley 1 Entley 1 President's Cop final: Leigh RMI 1 Drovision 2. Challenge Cap Semi-final replay: Huchaul Town 1 Stalybridge Celtic 2. Ryman League Premier Division: Basingstoke Com 4 Chestam Utd 0 Second Division: Bracknell Town 1 Thame Utd 2. Hemel Hempsted 2 Horstam 0. Hunger ford Down 7 Hertrod Town 2. Whichout 1 Dwin 1 Thame Utd 2. Hemel Hempsted 1 Division: Code toth Town 2. Newport (Gwent) 5: Stourbidge 1 Solinul Borough 0, Sutton Colffeet Town 1 Poton 1. Jewson Eastern League Premier Division: Kempston 1 Poton 1. Jewson Eastern League Tymington & New Milcha 3 Brockenhurst 0 Winston-lead Kent League Premier Division: West Modands Police 1 Halesowen Harners 1. League Cup semi-final second leg: Bridgnorth Town 1 Oldbury Utd 2. Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 2 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 3 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 3 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 3 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 3 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 3 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 4 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 5 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 5 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 5 Northern Councies East League Cup semi-final: Denaty Utd 6 No Form 6 Melistam Town 0. Postponed:
Yeoul v Therron. Harp Lager National
League of Ireland Pressider Division:
Shelbourne 1 Bohemians 2. Poetins
League First Division: West Bromwich
1 Manchester City 0. Second Division:
Rotherham 1 Scarborough 0. Aron Insertance Combination First Division:

terborough 2 Wycombe 1. Postponed: Crystal Polace v Charlton, Morthampron v

GOLF GOLF

MCI CLASSIC (Hitton Head Island, South Carolina) Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65 J Maggert, 5 Flesch; 66 P-U Johansson (Swe), 5 Pare, 5 Hoch, J Cook, 67 D Hammond, L Janzen, L Maze,, 68 B Mayfar, J Huston, M Brooks, D Love III, L Mattace, M Hulbert, C Sullivan, 5 Dunlap, P Stewart, I Lehman, D Harr, B Andrade; 65 B Henninger, J Carter, 5 Kendoll, V 5ngh (Fij), T Dodds (Nam), N Faldo (GB), R Mediate, C Perry, B Estes, M Red. J D Blake, C Stadler, F Funk, B Twoy, Other; 70 T Woods; 71 P Sjoland (Swe), C Montgomeric (GB), 74 J Pyrognik (Swe), G Norman (Aus).

ESTORIL OPEN (Penha Longa, Por) First-round scores (GB or Iri unless stated): 69 V Prilips. P Price 70 P 000sen

Oldcorn J Pystrom (New), 1 Galls (US), A. Hansen (Den) M Joneson (New), P. Gomen (Swel), P. Hunsen (Swel), P. Gomen (Swel), P. Huck high (Sw.), P. Gomen (Swel), P. Gomen (Swel), P. General (Swel), P. Huck high (Swel), P. General (Swel), P. Huck high (Swel), P. General (Swel), P. Winchester, J. Chance (Swel), P. General (J. General), P. Winchester, J. Chance (Swel), P. General (J. General), P. General (G. General), P. General (G

Saeng (Thai) 67 72 C Nyong-Io (S Not) 67 72. Other: 142 D Clarke (GB) 77 70 ICE HOCKEY

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Pool B: Estonio 3 Kazaklistan 5, Hungary 2 Botam 4, Dennio k 3 Poland 1 Slovenia

MOTORCYCLING

MOTOR CYCLING
WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP
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P Goddard (Aug.) Aug. Incate 1 3 4 7 7 6
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Malay) First qualifying session: 500 cc:
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2 7 7 26 5 A Challe (by Mante) 2 7 3 1 Boston
(Aug.) Home 2 7 att. Septeng.
1 7 7 50)

MOTOR RACING Finland's Mika Salo will replace Ricardo Zonta for the British American Racing fearn at the San Matino Grand Prix on 2 May if the Braziljury sustained at his home race

RUGBY UNION THURSDAY'S LATE RESULT: Welsh National League Premier Division: Caer-philly 31 Bridgend 31

SAILING

The Cadet dinghy sailors Sam Carter, aged 15, and Rory Cottam, aged 9, are set for a top world ranking after winning the UKSA Grand Prix Cadet Inland Championship at Rutland Water. SPEEDWAY

Shleid: Ipswich 42 Huli 46 Premier Na-tional Trophy: Sheffield 53 Stoke 39 In-ternational Challenge: Swindon 43 SQUASH

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Craven

WISPA WORLD GRAND PRIX FINALS (Hurghada, Egy) First qualifying round: Pool A M Martin (Aus) or 5 Horner (Gbi) 6-9 10-8 9-3 9-4 C Or bt L Joyce (NZ) 9-1 9-2 9-1 Pool B S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt S Schoene (Ger) 9-3 9-3 9-4" C Jackman (Eng) bt N Grainger (SA) 5-9-9-4-9-4-9-6

TENNIS

TENNIS
BARCELONA OPEN Men's singlesthird round: A Costa (Sp) br M Roos (Chi)
6-4-6-1. F Meligeni (Bia) bt Y el Ayricou
(Mor) 3-6-7-6-6-1. A Berasategui (Sp) bt
F Squillani (Ag) 6-0-7-6. F Claver (Sp) bt
T Henman (GB) 6-1-6-4-7-8 Alami (Mar)
or Y Spadea (US) 6-3-6-3. T Martin (US)
bt I Robredo (Sp) 6-3-7-6. C Maya (Sp)
bt II, Ferrero (Sp) 7-5-5-7-6-4. F Manritia (Sp) bt R Furtain (It) 6-3-6-0.
JAPANESE OPEN (Dokyo) Men's singles, quarter-Binals: N Riefer (Ger) bt
I Enquist (Sw) 6-7-7-5-6-4. J Byos-man
(Swe) bt R Krojicek (Meth) 3-6-7-5-0-1.

(Swell b) R Monicel (Nezn) 3-6 7-5 c-1. 1 Johansson Execution 13-6 7-5 -1, 1 Johansson Execution 15-1 6-4 W Ferreira (SA) by K Carlega (Den) 3 6 6-2 6-3, N Iverei (Gerl br 1 Fingest (Swell 6-7 7-5 6-4 Wigners's singles, quarter-finals: A Sugiyama (Jupun) b) 1 Lee (Tan 6-4 6-0, C Moranii (US) b) 5-1 Wang (Ia) 6-7 6-3 6-4; A Frazier (US) bt M to (US) 5-7 6-4 6-4, J Chi (US) bt S Memora (Cz Rep) 6-2-3-0 ret | A Sugiya-ma (I ip ini bt) Lee (Tai) 6-4-5-0, C Morar-

NEWBURY

Going: Good to Firm

2.10: 1. PORCINI (J Fortune) 15-8, 2.
Holy Discovery 3-1; 2. Russian Fox 20-1.
B ran, 11-10 fav Ca Fiber (6th) 17., 17.,
(P Cole, Whatcombe) Botes £3.10; £1 20
£1 60, £3.70, DF £12.70, CSF; £17.27
NP. Towers Cf. Law. NR Travesty Of Law 2.40: 1. BADAGARA (P Robinson) 25-1:

2. Mayaro Bay 9-1, 3. Senure 15-2, 12 ran. 9-2 (av Drawan (5th) 1.11; (C Brittuin, Newmarker) Toter £28.20; £5.60, £2.60, £2.70 DF £128.90; GF £214.15. Tricast: \$1.729 60. Trifecta. \$2.539 70.

3.10: 1. WINCE (K Fallon) 9-2 pt fav. 2.

Golden Silca 13-2; 3. Capistrano Day
16-1, 11 ran, 9-2 pt fav Sakna (5th) 17v.

sh-hd (H Cecil, Newmarket). Tober \$5.50; £1 40, £1.80, £4 20 DF £13 40 CSF

3.40: 1. SPEED ON (D Sweeney) 9-1: 2. Cortachy Castle 10-1, 3. Batchworth Belle 12-1, 13 ran, 6-1 fay Levelled, 7. (H Candy, Wantage). Tote: £11.10;
 £3.00, £3.10, £3.50, DF, £44.20, CSF; E88.42 Tricast: £1,032.28. NR. At Large. 4.10: 1. SALFORD EXPRESS (T Qui 7-2; **2. Peshtigo** 15-6 far; **3. Outer Limit** 4-1 **7 ran.** NF, 2 (D Elsworth, Whit-combe), **Tote:** £4,40; £1 70, £1 80, DF: E6 50 (SF: £9.29)

NUMBER

The number of dollars (£18.75m) ice hockey player Peter Forsberg will earn over three vears with Colorado Avalanche, a record

deal for the NHL.

TODAY'S

30m

4-1 It fav: 3. Young Thruster 10-1, 11 ran, 2%, 6, (Mrs M Reveley, Saltburn), Total: 64, 10; £1,10, £1,90, £2,20, DF; £9,20, CSF; £16,55, Tricast £721,91, Placepot: £144 10 Quadpot: £50 40. THIRSK Going: Good (Good to Firm in places)
1.50: 1. ORIENTAL (G Hind) 10-11 fax:

11-4 14 ran. 4, 74. (J Gosden) Total £1 90; £1 10, £5,00, £1,10, DF; £14,40,

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

London Towers are also favourites for their home tie tonight against Newcastle Eagles, after squaring the series with Thursday's 91-76 victory. Dennis Rodman has been released by Los Angeles Lakers after only two months. The flamboyant star has missed several matches and training

RACING RESULTS

A.40: 1. PRESUMED (S Sanders) 11-2; 2. Apple Of Kent 8-11 fav: 3. Nitthwake 10-1. 10 ran. 3. 5. (P Makin. Ogbourne Maisey) Tote: £10.70; £1.90, £1.30. £1.70 DF: £8.80, CSF, £8.86, 5.10: 1. RAINBOW HGM (M HMs) 5.10: 1. RANNEDOW HIGH (M. Hills) 11-2: 2. Candle Smile 14-1; 3. Ballet High 20-1. 12 ram. 5-1 fav Sansaine Boy. 9. nk. (B. Hills). Tote: £6,10; £2 40 £4.10 £5 70 DF. £38.00. CSF: £70 41 Trcast: £1294,86, NR; Bndie's Pnde Jackpot: Not won. E69,678,03 carried for-ward to Newbury today. Placepot: E758.50. Quadpot: E35.10.

AYR

Going: Heavy with Soft parches 2.00: 1. FATHER KRISMAS (/ 1)22ard) 8-11 fav. 2. Okeedokee 14-1; 3. San Francisco 10-1, 6 ran. 9, 13. (P Nicholls. Shepton Mailet). Tobs: £1.70; £1.10. £4.70 DF: £10.80, CSF: £9.52. 2.30: 1. CONCHOBOR (N Williamson) 5-1; 2, Ackzo 11-10 fav; 3, Bora Bora 7-1, 8 ran. 5, 5 (k Bailey, Upper Lambourn), Tober £5,70; £1,70, £1,10, £1,40, DF, £4,60, CSF, £8,71.

0-1: 24.00. CS; 16.3.1.
3.00: 1. MISTY CLASS (Mr. J Crowley)
10-1; 2. Str Bob 4-1 fav. 3, Mithala 15-2
11 ram. 14, 9, (Mr. S Smith, Bingley).
Bobe: £12.70: £2.80. £1.50. £2.20. DF.
£24.20. CSF: £44.65 Tncast: £291.02. 3.30: 1. SPARKY GAYLE (B Storey) 7-2

3.50: 1. SPARRY GAYLE (8 Storey) 7-2 fav; 2. Squire Silk 6-1: 3. Ballad Min-strel 4-1. 6 ran. 13, 7 (C Parker, Lociertse). Tata: £3.20; £1 60, £2.10. DF: £10.00. CSF: £18 23. 4.00: 1. CALON LAN (M A Fizzgerald) 11-8 fav; 2. Meldrum Park 11-4: 3. Cas-tle Gear 7-4, 3 ran. 17, 5 (N Hender-son Lamburgt Totes £2.30. DF: £2.30. son, Lambourn), Tote: £2 30, DF: £2.30

CSF. £4.36 4.36: 1. ENSIGN EWART (Mr C Storey) 9-2; 2. Fiscal Policy 25-1; 3. Miners Meledy 25-1 6 ram. 6-5 fav Varylinos 3, 2. (Mrs J Storey, Kelsol, Tope: £4.20, £1.70, £3.50 DF. £36.50, CSF: £56.58, 5.00: 1. MERRY MASQUERADE (P Niven) 4-1 (t fav. 2. Lordberniebouffank

ed Arms 16-1. 3. Get Stuck in

2.20: 1. SEBE DE CHAM (C Lowther) 25-1; 2. La Caprice 11-8 fav; 3, Willirack Times 3-1, 9 ran. 5h-hd, 3, (I L Eyre). Tote: 517.30, £2 60, £1.30, £1.10 DF: £9.60, CSF: £50.01 2.50: 1. MUNGO PARK (I Weaver) 4-1; 2. Double Oscar 6-1; 3. Gay Breeze 3-1 fav. 9 ran. "4. 1/f. (M Dods) Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £2.70, £2.40, DF, £10.20, CSF; 2.3.56 3.20: 1. BERYL (G Carter) 9-2: 2. Gold Lodge 11-2: 3. Authem 5-1. 7 ran, 10-11 fav Colonial State (5th), 1/4, 11/4 (J Dunkep), Tobes 53 90; £2.80; £2.50 DF; £4.80 CSF, £26, 13. 3.50; 1. LEGAL ISSUE (R Lappin) 7-1

it fav. 2. Gablesea 12-1: 3. Lynton Lad 14-1: 18 ran. 7-1 it fav Smarrer Charter. 1. 1%. (B Rothwell). Tota: E8.60. £2.40. £2.90. £4.10. £2.00. DF: £55.30. CSF: 597.72 Tricost: 5722.74 4.20: 1. RAMBO WALTZER (G Duffield) 5-1, 2. Redoubtable 10-1: 8. Abertuen

25-1. 15 ran. 3-1 (av Lunch Party (5rh). Hd. 1 (D Nicholis), Tote: £6.70; £2 90. £2 60, £13,80, DF, £24,90, CSF, £55,60, Tricast: £1,131,47, NR: Ollie's Chuckle, 4.50: 1. BOLLIN RITA (G Duffield) 5-1.

2. Rocklands Lane 12-1; 3. Sulu 3-1 fav.

13 ran. 2. 6. (T Easterby). Totes £3.20;

£2.10. £3.00. £1.50. DF. £25.60. CSF: 2. NR' Unlikely Lady. 1. **HEAVENLY MISS** () Fanning)

16-1; 2. Parsy Culsyth 25-1; 3. Carrie Pooter 9-1: 4. Glowing 6-1 ir fav. 23 ran. 6-1 it fav General Klaire. V., sh.-hd. £2,30, £1,80, DF: £604 10, CSF: £372.36, Tricast: £3567.08NR: Pleasure. Placepot: £31.70. Quadpot: £17.30.

¥THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 981 972 982 973 983 STRATFORD 974 984 BANGOR 975 985 ALL COURSES RESULTS <u>0891 261 970</u>

Call coal file per security TLS tid, Scotton St FCA 6

National trust in Kenny

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

IT IS SUPPOSED to be sunshine and cream down in the West Country, a happy place where the Famous Five roam and scrumpy is poured from stone jugs.

But, then again, there is the Beast Of Bodmin and a rivalry among two racehorse trainers which is a little less sweet than Ambrosia. Martin Pipe and Paul Nicholls are not the best of buddies. Indeed, if Nicholls had managed to get within touching distance of his neighbour after last year's Cheltenham Gold Cup then Pipe and his Adam's apple would now be in separate locations.

Nicholls was incensed that day by the manner in which See More Business was carried out

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Enrique (Newbury 3.00) NB: Silk St John (Newbury 3.30)

of the Blue Riband by Pipe's Cyborgo. The memory still festers. When See More Business made glorious amends at last month's Festival one of the themes Nicholls was keen to pursue was that the Gold Cup victory had put him within touching distance of the trainers' championship, a trophy which has become as much a part of Pipe's life as his limp. If Nicholls can nick that prize from racing's tiny Goliath he will be uncontrollable with mirth.

The Ditcheat-based trainer is 1-2 (with Ladbrokes) to assume the throne with just over six weeks of the National Hunt campaign remaining. He is about £50,000 clear of Pipe, but that advantage could be erased largely at a stroke should Pond House be successful in today's Scottish Grand National at Ayr.

Pipe runs Farfadet V and Tell The Nipper, and Nicholls, rather strangely for a man who has made his name with staying chasers, runs nothing. The two lock horns in four other contests on the card and their private battle will determine the championship's destination.

GOING: Good

🖸 Left-hand, und

THE FAVOURITES: 163-452 (36.1%)

stakes 2m 4f

BANGOR

HYPERION

3.45 Monicasman 4.15 Tombola 4.45 Tanseeq

Course is 4m SE of Wreatham near junction of A525 and B6069. e from Wrexham station. ADMISSION: Paddock £10;

[3] LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 15-52 (242%), A P McCoy 14-66 (212%), B Harding 12-43 (279%), C Llewellyn 12-70 (171%).

TONGUE STRAP: Barton Bill (2:10). Rodders (2:40). Cherming Girl (2:40). Alzoomo (3:10). Little Gumer (3:10). Liver Bird (3:45). Nosam (3:45). Andermati (4:15).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Walter's Dream (viscred, 310). Zahaalle (310), Mauraches (345), Spuffington (415), Little Ser-

2.10 COBRA SOFTWARE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV 1) £3,500 added to

6-4000 MR TEDDY EDWARDS (12) No. J Brown 5 TI 0 B Fent

Mark Smith (7)

2: STEEL ROSE (42) (BF) N Twiston-Davies 5 70 9 . . . 7 Joints

— 14 doctared —

BETTING: 3-1 Barton Bill, 4-1 Afthrey Torch, 11-2 Faini, Nicoly Relaxed,

7-1 Anugratia, Steel Rose, 10-1 Silver Howe, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

NICELY RELAXED hasn't really lived up to his name so far but he has a bit of scope about him and in the hope that

there and too much softening of the ground, hes well worth

2.40 HAYWOOD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) \$26,000 added 2m 1f 110yds

FF:300 THUNDERPOINT (9) (D) Vass K George 7 th 0 . R Mas

COFFF LUCRATIVE PERK (12) MSs C Carpe 7 to 9 . D Leahy

BETTING: 11-8 Champing Girl, 7-4 Ambrich, 7-1 Radders, 12-1 Thursderpoint, 18-1 Manyulano, 20-1 Mickleover, Roysaca, Lucrative Perk

FORM VERDICT There are doubts about most of these but AMLWCH is a con-

sistent sort who comes into the race in good form. He is more Sistent soft who comes into the later at great and accordingly likely to hold his form than Rodders, who made a good impression to hold his form

son when winning his chase debut but has not held his form well in the cast. Charming Girl is a weak firsther and every

3.10 TOMMY & TUPPENCE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) 26,000 added 3m

OFOP RIVERBANK ROSE (12) (C) (D) W Cey 8 to TI ... G Tormey

37-36 LITTLE GUNNER (56) (CD) C ! Proc 9 (9) 9 ... L Cummins (3) (CD) Z : ZAHAALE (USA) (21) (C) ! Proc 9 (7) 7 7

502562 PRAIRIE MINSTREL (12) R Doors 5 to 4 ... X Abpuru (3)

3 0303PP FEARLESS WONDER (106) H Howe 8 10 0. Miles K Di Marte (7)

13 declared 1.3 declared 1.5 manum weight 10st True hancecap weights Fearless Wonder 8st 6th
5ETTING: 4-f Zehaalle, 6-1 Two To Tango, Prairie Minstrel, 7-1 Atzoomo,
Little Gunner, Vilprano, 8-1 Riverbank Rose, 10-1 others

FORM VERDICT

The first-time blinkers are a worry for Zahastic but UTTLE

GUNNER retains plenty of apility and can be relied upon to

given his latest failure after an encouraging return at Haydock.

. . Sophie Mitchell

yard over the two miles makes her more vulnerable.

P13303 ALZOOMO (12) J Giover 7 Ti 10

CACOP WELSH SILK (70) D General 7 if 1.

F42PP LAGAN (154) S Golfnes 6 10 7 . . .

4503 BRUMALIS (NZ) (22) S Stockshaw 7 to 2

12 20PP P CASSIO'S BOY (12) (C) G McCourt 8 10 0

P22521 CHARWING GIRL (40) (CD) O Sherwood 8 rt 1

50F03P ROYRACE (21) W Ensbourne 7 to 0

Mark Smith (7)

35 ALTHREY TORCH (43) W Cay 7 π 0

Course £5 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 25-105 (238%). D Nicholson 14-60 (233%). N Twiston-Davies 12-68 (178%). P Hobbe 9-33 (273%).



Wince (centre) and Kieren Fallon power home in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday

Nicholls may be rather worried about the Scottish National as Pipe's horses will be operating in the smallest field for the contest in 10 years. Tell The Nipper looks the more probable victor for Pipe, not least because he is the selection of Tony McCoy.

The one they all have to beat though is Young Kenny (4.05), whose owners decided not to go for the Grand National this year but wait until their horse became Old Kenny. He is turning into one of those most admirable of animals, a staying horse with as

much courage as ability. There are marriage-ending possibilities today with the BBC and Channel 4 serving up 11 live sole offering is the Classic Trial.

though the Classic for which has won a race or two, though this is a guide is presumably the he was a disappointing fav-Namibian St Leger. The hyperbole will count as naught for the winner though, and that is likely to be Peculiarity (4.25).

At Newbury we search for a horse worthy to be a 2,000 Guineas candidate. Enrique and Killer Instinct both lost horribly last time out, but others have lost equally horribly since and Henry Cecil's pair have floated to the head of the ante-post market as the dregs have sunk.

Killer Instinct has again been conducting a slaughter on the Newmarket gallops, but those were the sort of messages we were getting before he folded like a soggy paper bag at races between them. Thirsk's Ascot on his only juvenile run. to be on, or, more exactly, his ENRIQUE (nap 3.00), at least.

3.45 SILVER WEDDING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 3m 110yds

1 350342 LIVER BIRD (14) (D) Miss V Williams 9 to 10 S Kelly (3)

F1-333 SHANAVOGH (14) G M Moore 8 11 D...... Callagha

61-F5 MASTER (12) D J Blinge 10 10 4 C McPhall (5) B U85603 EXACT (FR) (11) D Nicholson 7 10 4 O McPhall (5) B

10 CCEPG6 MAURACHAS (12) (D) M Sheppard 8 10 0 _D Leathy B 11 2-40P5 PAPARAZZO (21) W Jenks 8 10 0..... S Wymne

- 11 declared -Miramum weight: 10st. True handicap weights. Maurachas 9ct 8th. Paparazz

FORM VERDICT

CEDAR SQUARE has always been a very useful prospect and he could still be on a fair mark, though significant rain

(he acts on easy ground) would put pressure on his slightly

4.15 JANE MCALPINE MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (H) £2,000 added 3m 110yds

Lad, 12-1 Andermatz, Apple John, Capo Castanum, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

Granted no repetition of the michap which flocred TOMBO-LA at Unioneter, it should not be necessary to look beyond Carotine Bailey's improving sort. Castle Court and Watchit Lad could give him most to do.

4.45 SADIE & SUZY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £5,000 added 2m 1f

FORM VERDICT

An open race in which the ground could hold the key Pro-vided the rain stays away, EAGLE CANYON, who is better than the bare result at Hereford last week indicates and races

5.15 COBRA SOFTWARE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (Div II) £3,500 added 2m 4f

1036 CHARTER RIDGE (21) (D) JJ O'Nell 6 in O. . . JR Kavanagh OPP SMTEC LESTER (NZ) (12) S Bookstraw 6 in O. . X Alexans (3)

31C12: TURBULENT GALE (781) R N Sevis 10 TI (L.C. McContracts (2)

14 220620 LAMBRINI LAD (24) A Baley 4 10 7 Doubtful - 14 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Little Hearl, 5-1 Charter Ridge, Sheepcute Hill, 6-1 Verb-cal Air, 8-1 Turbulent Gale, 10-1 Evenkoel, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT A modest event in which LITTLE HEART holds a major chance.

Dragon King have each-way possibilities

er mark now, is likely to be hard to beat. Blottift and

Shanavogh, 8-1 Nosam, Exact, 10-1 Mystic Isle, 12-1 others

ourite in the Dewhurst Stakes.

Cecil's Capri is reported to have flowered into something of an Adonis over the winter and will be a strong consideration for the John Porter Stakes, which will, in fact. be won by Persian Punch (2.30). Mick Ryan runs Lady Rock-

star, who has followed up a considerable run of victories with a considerable run of defeats. in the opener, but has better prospects in the Spring Cup. Right Wing will be fancied here following his win in the Lincoln, but John Dunlop's team may have to put their black armbands on again. Ryan is the one

Julian Herbert/Allsport **Bookies shun Wince**

trial without barging its way to the front of the market for the race in question. So bookmakers' offer of Wince at 16-1 for the 1.000 Guineas after a clear, if workmanlike, victory in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury yesterday prompted a smile from Warren Place fans.

Coral, Ladbrokes and William Hill all list the daughter of Selkirk at 16-1 after her lengthand-a-half beating of Golden Silca in the Group Three Newbury warm-up.

No doubt, the form of the

SELDOM DOES a Henry Cecil- a turn of speed between horstrained horse win a Classic es to win it and Cecil rates her good enough to represent Khalid Abdullah unless Andre Fabre has a better filly to run. "She is not what we call

tuned up," Cecil said, "and hopefully she will come on and it will be worth running her." Wince's presence in the Guineas would force Fallon to reject the ride on the favourite Moiava, made available by the

suspension of Oliver Doleuze. "If she runs, he rides," asserted Cecil. "He is my jockey." Moiava delighted her train-

er, Criquette Head, in a workrace falls short of the Classic out before racing got underway Silk St John (next best (3.30). benchmark, but Wince showed at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday.

Out'N'About 4.05 Supreme Lady 4.35 Destin D'Estruval 5.05 Tissue Of Lies 5.35 Jim Jam Joey

GOING: Good.

Left-hand course with 200yd nun-m.

Course & SW of Stratford-on-Aeron on AA39. Stratford station 1m. ADMISSION: Cub E14; Tartersalis £10; Course £4 CAR PARK: Inside course £2, remainder free

LEADING TRAINBERS: M Pipe 30-117 (256%). D Nicholson 18-57 (316%), K Balley 11-59 (186%). P Hobbs 11-64 (172%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 34-146 (233%), R Johnson 24-121 (188%), A Maguire 16-62 (258%), N WIRIAMSON £6-39 (8%).

FAVOURITES: 185-488 (373%).

TONGUE STRAP: Unitus (2.35). High Thyne (3.05). Motet (3.35), Regol Secret (3.35), Private Jet (4.95). Time For Action (5.05); Bronhallow (5.35). Eco Warrior (5.36).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Out*N'About (3.35). Jim Jam Joey (5.35).

2.35 JP SEAFOODS NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (D) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

-SLPOS ANDERMATT (11) (C) J Macker 12 12 4 Mr J R Commer (7) P-:PU APPLE JOHN (9) (D) A Whiting 10 12 4, Mr M Worthington (7) Z423 BRAES OF MAR (18) (D) N Herdeson 3 2 4 Likej O Elmood (2 1 mB TOMBOLA (11) (D) (BF) Mrs C Baley 8 2 4 Mr B Policel 3P.FP2 CAPO CASTANUM (11) (D) Mrs H Kright T. 2 () Miss V Roberts (5 9 PORTU WATCHT LAD (PIG) (D) (EF) NES A PICE 9 22 I JAIR R Cooper (7) 1-1221 ARDSTOWN (PIG) (D) R IVIDE 8 IT 3 JAIR F Windsor Clive (7) — 10 declared — BETTING: 5-2 Tombols, 11-4 Brass Of Mar, 4-1 Ardstown, 7-1 Watchit

FORM VERDICT

Most of these are pretty modest, but that comment certainly chost not apply to TEMPER LAD is four-year-old mying to give plenty of weight to older mass. With a useful amateur claiming Itb he is not badly heated.

3.05 TAXI TRUCKS LTD 10TH ANNIVERSARY NOVICE CHASE (D) \$5.500 added 3m © 270-FF SISTER ALI (14) € Pearce 7:10 7 - 16 ceclared -

12 061401 COBIE 249 D McCan 5 20 20 ... S Nymas 13 04443 BLOTOFT (29) S Gelings 7 20 9 ... J A McCarth, 14 367910 LITTLE 40E (155) 45 Smoth 10 10 8 ... L Custatins (3) 15 96-005 SLIPSTREAM STAP (29) N Neston-Daves 5 10 5 ... T Jenks 16 05003 EAGLE CANYON (7) S Brookchaw 6 10 8 ... X Akspuru (7) FORM VERDICT Very few can be given any hope in a race dominated by RIVER DAWN, whose confidence will hopefully have been boosted by an easy win at odds on last time out. - 20 declared -BETTING: 7-1 Althrey Ruler, 8-1 Dragon King, Eegle Canyon, 10-1 Dis-tant Storm, Arabien Heights, Pharty Reef, Tanseeq, Blotott, Siipstream

3.35 JENKINSONS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) 53,000 added 2m 61 110yds

10 CHAMBER | 12-1 Lighter Lord, :4-1 BETTING: 11-10 River Dawn, 2-1 No Blone Hassie, 12-1 Lighter Lord, :4-1 King's Whisper, Time To Parlez, 16-1 Ezarak, High Thyrio, 29-1 others

CANTENERHY I WASHES 6 TH 0

SOCIAL ESPHIT DE COTTE (83) (D) N Ferderson 7 TH 0 NA RESPERANCE

RPPUS FAMICIN DE NOURRY (10) T CASS-el 6 TH C M Baschelor (5)

CCI GENTLEMAN CHARLES (21) P R Webber 5 TH 0 A Thornton

ST HENRY CANDO (38) S Sherwood 6 TH 0 Mr R Forristal (5)

OFF-PI KILARVASY KING (14) N Sec 5 TH 0

SOCIAL TO REPORT (15) CASS-EL TH 0

OFF-PI KILARVASY KING (14) N Sec 5 TH 0

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OFF-PI KILARVASY ... O Burrows * 3 9-67 TRAVELING MAN (2) NSS C (2) 1597 TR 0. 3 5 252F4 OUT WABOUT (23) P NST 6 10 2 8 6 GAY CLOWN P Harbs 5 10 3 Mr D 7 PP-04F GRIBBLING (14) K Corretor 5 10 9 - 17 declared - 17 declared -Mr D O'Meara (7)

BETTING: 9-4 Motet, 3-1 Esprit De Cotta, 5-1 Out N'About, 7-1 Yer Umble, 9-1 Prosperc, 12-1 Canterbury, 14-1 Accademia, Gay Clown, 2u-1 others FORM VERDICT

Out N'About has the form to win it plinters work and it will be interesting to see if useful ex-French chaser Espirit de Cotte ethacts support. Prospero is another possibility now he trainer has ended a long lean spet but the horse in form is MOTET. who has improved since having his forgue tied down. 4.05 RODDY BAKER GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 28,000 added 2m 4f

REPP BENGERS MOOR (12) P Nacioné 11 2 R Thomson EC443 CAPENWRAY (14) (D) J King 70 TI 7 W Marston F0T-P PENNYBROGE (14) (D) D Nacioson 10 TI 5 M A Figgrand

2311-2 STEVE FORD (315) (D) C Morlock 10 10 0. . . . S Durack

This has the malangs of a warm handicap, with several potentially well treated spring-campaign types. It will be interesting to see how far Bangers Moor gets this time and whether the jumping of Supreme Lady and Boerdroom Shuffle survives what should be a terocous pace. The one runner who looks sure to show his form is GRATOMI, who beat off other

4.35 BAULKING GREEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,500 added 2m 5f 110yds

등 2개구3 TRUE STEEL (18) J Tro: Rolph 및 현 Mr J Trico-Rolph (3) - 16 declared -BETTING 3-1 Destin D'Estrivat, 5-1 King Torus, 11-2 True Steel, 6-1 Act Of Partiament, 7-1 Chem. 8-1 Mr Golightly, Shaand, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Only four of these warrant close scrumy. True Steel and Shaarid's form one quite good enough so the two with the strangest claims are DESTIN D'ESTRUVAL and King Torus. Though his below-par last-time-out run does temper confi-dence somewhat. Destin d'Estruval will be extremely hard to

5.05 SHIRLEY COLLINS GETS MARRIED NEXT SATURDAY H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 110yds

59551 AFTER GRACE 122) (D) N Macon 9 10 11 Mr L McGrath 3-000 SERIOUS (10) (D) 5 000 9 10 11 Mr P Plytin (7) 45401 BRUSH WITH TIME (20) (D) Mr S Wilsons 7 10 9 W March 0-56-90 COMPASS POINTER (56) (D BF) J Euslace 6 10 8 S Durack n 625631 SHAHRANI (12) (D) M Otapman 7 103 ... W Wort 13 (645F) STORNI INDER (7) (D) 3 Mebr 8 th 1 ... C 5 €2344 STURNI THERY (25) (D) (89) A Octon 7 th 1 ... R Ti 14 P1 ** D ROSIE (339) ™ Harti 9 10 0

Manuscome (339) ** Half 9 10 0 S Curran - 14 declared - S Curran - 14 declared - 15 Curran - 16 Curran - 16 Curran - 16 Curran - 17 Curran - 17 Curran - 18 Curran

A trappy race in which several can be lanced. Got The Point effective in today a conditions, he is nonetheless one for the short-licit, as is the interesting Compass Pointor, Preference thought is for the in-form AFTER GRACE, whose last-timehere, even after an 11th true in her rating.

5.35 JENKINSONS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (Div II) £3,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 0 ECO WARRIOR (39) D NAUTRY STRIP O TO V.
FULCE FOR CHRISTIE (12) N Hawfe (0 IT 0)
P CANNA BE KING (13) MSs M Rawfard o TO Mr S Stronge (7)
33/4P KERANI (USA) (51) K 5el 7 IT 0
J Magne
REOF TO MARINERS MEMORY (24) R Brazengon TI TO HOLIVE (5)
R TROPHON 2 3-0 3 FROM SHEET (100) (07) A DEBY 1 10 1 A FORMAL SHEET (183) H Daily 6 11 0 1 H Format 15 (07) WATTS THE POINT (12) T George 6 11 0 1 S Durnels 16 M2/PP ZAABRANO (USA) (22) D Villams 7 Ti 0 Mr A Demonstry (12) D OSHOR 10 3 1 L Corostan (7) 17 Australia 1 L Corostan (7)

BETTING: 7-2 Anns Girl. 4-1 Jim Jam Joey, 9-2 Strong Brew, 6-1 Trimbers Effort, 7-1 Bronhellow, 9-1 Nerson, 10-1 Stammons, 14-1 others FORM VERDICT ANNS GIRL gets a chance to supplement her if Abbot gams Jim Jam Jooy is the danger on form, all it would be no surprise if Strong Brew showed his

behind that horse on the soft at Kempton to be all wrong.

THIRSK

HYPERION 3.50 Gaelic Storm

1,50 Bread Winner 4.25 Peculiarity 2.20 High Tatra 4,55 Kalahari Ferrari 2.50 Diamond Promise 5,25 Scene 3.20 Amaranth

3.20 Amaranth

5.25 Scene

GOING: Good. STALLS: Straight course – stands side; Round inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: A draw close to either rail usually gives an edge.

■ Lett-hand course, level but quite sharp.

■ Course is W of town on ASt. Railway station tm. ADMISSION: Club £14; Tatter
Salt £9 (APs £450); Family Enclosure £3 (OAPs £150). Accompanied under 18s free.

Salt £9 (APs £450); Family Enclosure £3 (OAPs £150). Accompanied under 18s free.

CAR PARK: Family Enclosure £10 per car inc up to 4 adults + all children; rest free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: J Berry 5-117 (128%), D Nicholia 15-128 (11.7%), M Johnston 14-70 (20%) J L Evre 13-128 (10.2%), Sir M Stoute 9-28 (32.1%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS. & Darley 20-101 (198%), J Fortune 19-131 (14.5%), J Westver 17-81 (21%), J Carrull 17-18 (11.5%), A Culhane 16-130 (12.3%).

■ FAVOURITES: 146-48 (34.6%).

TONGUE STRAP: Safi (150), Faute De Mieux (3.20), Susy Welle (4.55).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bread Wirmer (1.50), Nigrasine (3.50), Tamgeod (4.55).

1.50 BYLAND RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £3,030 DIV I) £4,000 80/06/17 PCHalty Value 20,000

MABAR (654) (hts N Seston) R Bastiman 6 9 10

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BETTING: evens Bread Winner, 8-1 Forest Call, Prince Ol Aragon, 7-1 Ste BETTING: evens bread without of inches 16-1 Starlines, Draw Time, 20-1 others 1998: Ploed Aboard 3 8 % G Carter 2-1 fav (J Dunlop) drawn (9) % ran

FORM VERDICT A poor affair which will principally concern Saff, Forest Call, BREAD WINNER and Taker Chance judged on adjusted official retings. In the hope that birtises work the oracle, Bread Winner gets the vote.

2.20 AGINCOURT & MIDDLEHAM TWINNERS CLASSIFIED STAKES (E) £4,600 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £3,137

FORM VERDICT

With no obvious front numer in the line-up this is likely to be a tactical affair This did not inconvenience Shaffleharyee a year ago, and Mary Revoley, who also landed the prize with Desert Fighter 12 months earlier, will be hopeful of a hat-tholk. However, her duo are up against a fast-improving sort in HIGH TATRA, who quick-ened impressively of a modest pace at Ripon.

2.50 KNAYTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value \$2,819

FORM VERDICT

Form suggests the assue rests between Diamond Promise and PARADISE YANG-SHUO. The latter has something to find through Baytown Melody, but the stables good run is persuasive.

3.20 THOMAS LORD HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 5f Penalty Value £8,084

- 24 declared
BETTING: 4-1 Tom Tun, 11-2 Unshelsen, 8-1 Seynford Dream, 10-1 Young Bigwig, Amaranth, 12-1 Storyteiler, Jeckie's Baby, 14-1 Amaranth, Fauta De Mieux, Antonie's Double, 16-1 Others 1998. Swaro 4 8 t3 J F Egan 8-1 (P Evans) drawn (8) 20 ran FORM VERDICT

Middle to low numbers seemed to have an advantage in yesterday big-field sprint here. The Newcastle form of TOM TUN has been boosted several times since. The pick of those drawn low could be Ocker and Rudi's Pet.

3.50 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL STAKES (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f Penalty Value £6,277

FORM VERDICT

The ground conditions will be vital here as form pick Gaelic Storm will surely be vulnerable unless the going has turned soft. Habitib is an interesting prospect while Eastern Purple is entitled to be thereabouts if ready first time, but SELHURST-PARK FLYER seems indifferent to the going and should be fully tuned up today following his sharpener at Doncaster.

4.25 THIRSK CLASSIC TRIAL STAKES (CLASS B) £16,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £10,050

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Boldly Goes: Inexponency yearing, looked skely to stay a mile when winning a Listed race at Rippon (61 good) with some ease tast August, bearing Anno Domin, a length Tissifier: 120,000 gne yearling. Showed progressive form last season including when finishing 2 lengths 5th to Festival Hall in a Group 3 at the Curragh (fin soft). Pipploing: Fine juvenile campagn included Two-jear-cid Trophy win at Rectar (61 heavy) and piscings in Quien Mary and Cherny Briton. Should win if shes trained on Etiawassalt: Useful 20, finishing 7 "". length that to Guineas hope Erinque and writing twice, found little on reoppearance when behind at Donicaster (fin, good to soft). Poculiarity: Won a 25-runner maken at York last Autumn and looked useful when 25', lengths fourth to Dehoush in Listed face at Rempton firm, good) 2 weeks ago Rajwhan: Derby-emered maden who finished a one-paired 3rd of 12 behind Surprise Encounter in a Kempton maiden curr ?" last week.

VERDICT: PIPALONG was by for the heat of those firm accounter of the progress of the pro

VERDICT: PIPALONG was by far the best of these last season and should take the race if she has trained on. She was a very game performer last season.

4.55 BYLAND RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) (Div II) £4,000 added 7f Penalty Value £3,030

9 Up-6 IAMMSCED (USAN) (10) IFCIRCON AI NO FOURTH J DURSO 3.8 € . G Carter 5.8 BETTING: 2-1 Hush Monoy, 4-1 Kalahan Ferrari, Kostral, Tamgeed, 8-1 Ameeria, 12-1 Ocean Drive, 18-1 Kholik, Susy Wells, 25-1 Wegge Moon 1998 Torsd 3.8 m J Fortune 10-1 Mrs J Romoden) drawn (2) 10 ran

FORM VERDICT

Most of these have a chance on bit of form Amoena looks the type bear caught fresh, but may have to give best to the less-enposed HUSH MONEY, for whom encuses can be made for his below par etions on his tast two outrigs, and Tamgeed

5.25 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,500 added filles & mares 1m Penalty Value £3,847

FORM VERDICT

A good apportunity for SCENE who rear turned in a succession of good efforts off this sort of handcup mark and bounced back from a rare disappointing effort on her reappearance to be a creditable third in a stronger race than the at Leibester

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FIRST SHOW

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PUNTERS' GUIDE

Simon Holt of Channel 4 Racing analyses today's

Scottish Grand National

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10-40 y 12 y-



Young Kenny: Progressive stay-(Midlands National) recently. Has a big weight but on a roll. Forest Ivory: Ran fourth and sixth to Young Kenny at Haydock and Uloxeter respectively. Useful stayer from the stable that sent out Baronet to win last year and Moorcroft Boy in 1996. Hollybank Buck: Gritty Irish raider - sent over to land Eider Chase at Newcastle in February. Third to Young Kenny at Utox-

eter. Should again go well. Clever Remark: Unbeaten in three starts this term and beat Young Kenny (much improved since: first time out. Unproven beyond 3m If but still fresh. Farfadet V: Maiden over fences in Britain and fell at Ascot latest start. Fair hurdler last year but patchy form this term. Full Of Oats: Remote seventh

in the Irish National Getting long in the tooth. Mr Boston: Gutsv old stick. Woo hunter chase at Huntingdon in February and a plugging-on fifth to Elegant Lord in Aintree Fox Hunters'. Others preferred. Scotby: Dual scorer at Toweester and should be suited by test of stamina, Raised in class,

The Next Waltz: The most proer, showing improved form to win at Haydock and Uttoxeter nine victories over hurdles and fences. Well beaten last time but keeps defying the handicapper. Camelot Knight: Brought down in the Grand National and previously placed in the same race. Very lightly raced nowadays and

probably past his best.

Tell The Nipper: Ex-Irish, now with Martin Pipe. Second (no chance with winner. Celtic Giant) at Cheltenham. Chancy jumper. Peter: Marathon Newcastle winner this season but well beaten last two outings.

Prime Example: Good winner of his last three races tlatest over four miles at Kelso from subsequent winner Gigi Beach) and highly progressive. Travels smoothly and lightly weighted. Bright Destiny: Consistent but one-paced. Fourth to Prime Example last time. Outclassed.

Pariah: Winner and placed several times in the North this season in much weaker company. Conclusion: PRIME EXAM-PLE was always going well when winning at Kelso and, while facing a tougher task, could take advantage of the big weight concession from anoth er improver Young Kenny.

NEWBURY 2.00: KENNET was held up at Nottingham and came late only to find Swift too good. He can do better on the likely faster ground having won on Ling-field's Equitrack. With top lightweight Jimmy Quinn aboard again, Kennet can solve the puzzle from a handy inside draw.

2.30: CAPRI can lead a Henry failed to stay longer distances last season but he rounded off in his favour. the campaign with a success over today's type of trip in the Cumberland Lodge at Ascot. He is rated a more mature horse now and he can outspeed the very smart Persian Punch who is better over two miles.

3.0: ENRIQUE has been going great guns on the gallops and should be capable of seeing off Exeat and Mutashab.

3,30: A low-drawn runner, Badagara (stall 1), won yesterday's mile contest on the round course here and the hint should SUNRISE (2) should be able to take up a handy position on this six-year-old who has frequently run with great credit, but little luck, in top mile handicaps over the past two years. Gaily Mili must be feared.

4.30: KILLER INSTINCT must waltz away with this maiden if he is to be a true Guineas contender

AYR 2.25: RADIATION was green earlier this season but showed he has got much tougher with a 10-length win over 3m2f at Carlisle a fortnight ago. Further improvement is anticipated now that he is tried with the headgear on.

Starting-prices:

Capri

Peak Path

Section

219290

Sheye

10-YEAR-TALE ON SCOTTISH NATIONAL

Fate of the tayourities: B P 2 P U 2/3/P 4/5/P 4 U 0

Winner's place in betting: 2 0 0 0 3 0 0 0 0 2J

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favouriles -£1000 Second Favourites -£100

Top trainers: N Twiston-Davies - Captain Dibble (1992), Earth Summit (1994)

D Nicholson - Moorcroft Boy (1996), Baronet (1998)

Top jockey: No jockey has won this race more than once in the past 10 years

FIRST SHOW

Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 40%

Shortest-priced winner: Rof-A-Joint (1989) 4-1 Longest-priced winner; Killone Abbey (1981) 40-1

Newbury 2.30

CKLST

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

2.55: Royal Predica scored impressively at Aintree last week and will be fancied to enhance his trainer's title credentials, but SCOTTON GREEN put up a fine perfor-Cecil charge. The Generous colt mance behind Celtic Giant at Cheltenham and has conditions

3.25: FADALKO has taken time to come to hand since moving from France but ran a great race at Aintree last week, failing by only a length to give 4lb to Kinnescash. The softer ground should suit and he can go one better today.

4.05: Young Kenny has rapidly established himself as a highquality staying chaser this season and could still be progressing. In this testing ground, however, he will find it tough to concede more than woody is likely to put up a few pounds overweight, but is an ideal partner for this highly-consistent mud-lover. Forest Ivory finished sixth, 16 lengths behind Young Kenny on good going at Uttoxeter last time - but will be a more dangerous rival today.

4.40: GREEN GREEN DES-ERT is the chosen one from four entries that Paul Nicholls originally had in this race, and he looks set to gain compensation for finishing a game second at Aintree last week.

4.25: The speedy Pipalong could well find this trip too far. PECU-LIARITY, who will have no difficulty staying a mile, looks best.

CHLS

1989 90 91 92 83 94 95 96 97 98

4-1 25-1 40-1 9-1 6-1 16-1 16-1 20-1 16-1 7-1

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THIRSK

NEWBURY

HYPERION 4.00 Quickstep 4.30 Killer Instinct

2.00 Kennet 2.30 Caprl 3.00 Enrique 5.00 Tumbleweed Quartet 3.30 Kala Sunrise (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - centire: Round course - outside
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High numbers bost for 51 to 71 particularly on soft ground
Eleft-hand course with long straights.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

The Defence station (service from London, Padding

1 ==	INKEHE	D FIRST TIME: Broad Winner (150). Nigrasme (350), Temgeed (455)
[2	2.00	GRUNDON RECYCLE HANDICAP (CLASS D) EBC1 £10,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £8,068
Į.	Actes	
Ìè	40024	CLOAK OF DARKHESS (208) (0) (4 Subst R Hannon 4 10 0 P Debbs (7) 3 83 BORANI (195) (Dr J A E Hobbyl I Balding 4 9 ti
15		RIVER BEAT (12) (D) (High Horans Stables) K Burke 49 TI D Williams (7) 10 89
Į ž	46/3-	JOINT REGENT (USA) (368) (Gansborough Sout) B Hals 499 M Hals 17 85
15		HIGH AND MIGHTY (208) (Shekh Mohammed) J Gosden 4 9 8 . O Pasillar 20 89
16		
	00000	LADY ROCKSTAR (19) (D) (Five Star Partnersho) M Ayan 497 . R Cochrane 15 .50
17	6,0123	KING PRIAM (7) Pucces M Polglase 495 R Price 5 B 89
1 8	IDE-	CRINKOV (183) (D) (A Dobson & Partners) H Morrson 4 9 5 C Ruster 9 91
9		KING DARRUS (12) (E.John Perryl R Harmon 4.95
10		WHITE PLAINS (12) (D) IN Shelds) K Burke 6 9 4 N Callan (5) 21 79
1 1		SUPER MONARCH (21) (Chalgate PRI Ix Burke 594
12		MOON BLAST (258) (4 P M & J W Cook) M Salaman 5 9 4. S Drowne 6 99
13	30/23	
[14	2,144	MERACLE ISLAND (359) (Art. P T Ference) () Etworth 4 9 3 N Polant (3) 4 99
1 15		DIAMOND FLAME (19) (D) (Seven Demonds) P Harry 5.92 P Goods (5) 22 .85
16		PINCHINCHA (FR) (19) (0) (0 & L Racing) 0 Morrs 5 9 2 N Day 1 90
17	50152	PUZZLEMENT (19) (D) (Mrs C Britain) C Britain 5 9 1 P Robinson 13 &9
118	25;44-	ABSOLUTE UTOPÍA (204) (D) (M T Lawrance) N Berry 6 8 t) . Pat Eddery 7 94
19	4-42.0	ROI DE DANSE (19) (Mss. A Jones) M Curn 4 B TI F Norton 19 98

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Clook Of Derinness: Windsor modern winner that time up last season. Good hidap 3rd to Benn over C&D and 3rd to Edwardian at Kempton hinal start. Fine claimer aboard Bornarit Manden though smart form in decemt handcaps, 4th to Kayo at Warwick on final start. Previous fine 2nd to Currius at Goodwood from bail draw 2th higher today). River Beat: Good spell with Mark Compkins tast season (5th lower since latest win at Goodwood) Has changed stables and best watched after seasonal from at kempton Joint Regent: Interesting numer in first handcap. 4th to Quert Assurance as purente and 3rd to Cann it Newmarket a year ago. Fine chance and stable having witners. High And Mighty: Winner over further last season (at Chester and Sandown), Just 3th higher for latest Sandown win from Veronica Franco but without the visor boday. Lady Rockstar: Nothed an 8-timer during May and June Barl year (from marks of 4th o 7th). A further 7th higher today and only 9th to Swift at Notungham on reappearance King Priam; in decent form on AW bearing Magical Shot at Southwelt 2nd to Hoty Smoke in amateurs' race at Doncaster and Swift to Welville on AW last Saturday. Girlinkov: Progressive last season with wins at Windsor (twice) and Folkestone (beat king Priam) Acts on all grounds and had Lady Rockstar and Diamond Flame behind when 2nd to Conspicuous at Brighton on final start. King Darflus: Came to hand early last term (won at Kempton). Prefers decent ground and dropped 3th for latest 8th to Carry The Flag in Rosebery at Kempton (stayed on) White Plains: Well hendicapped on best form. Probably more effective on AW neawadays and poor showing in Rosebery at Kempton is store. Super Monarch: No chance from bad draw in Lincoln. 7th higher than when a fine 2nd to Saligo at York and Newmarket win from 27 rivals. Chances over this longer trip Monarch: No chance from bad draw in Lincoln. 7th higher than when a fine 2nd to Saligo at York and Newmarket win from 27 rivals. Chances over this longer trip Monarch: No chance from bad draw in Linco

Princhindrate 6th to Swift (well beaten) at Nottingham on reappearance. Best timp and well handicapped 90 could figure from inside draw.

Puzziement: Gained two wins on last ground at this timp at Beverley (much higher mark today) last term. 5-length 2nd to Swift at Nottingham lest time. Absolute Utopla: Well backed to best Duello at kempton (tm4f) in August. Decent 4th to Rainbow Ways at Haydock (m4f) on final start, Interesting with Pat Eddery booked. Rol De Dansas: Placed on AW and little chance on latest no-show behind Swift.

Kontant Education of Impedious on AW and late than better the professor after 1 and to 1. Kennet: Easy winner of maiden on AW and shit hid behind Puzzlement when 2nd to

Number: Lessy winter of macien on Avaird and no bearing Augustian wind 2nd to Swift at Nottingham. Stays and fine chance from a good draw. Sharip Scotch: I'm specialist at Southwell. Tilb lower mark on turf but did nothing be-hind Swift at Nottingham with today's apprentice aboard. Final Settlement: Lightly raced last ferm and finished with wins at Windsor (beat Fancy Design) and Lingfield (neck from Tigulio). May struggle on first run since July VERDICT: KENNET should play a prominent part at the weights and the low draw gives him an advantage Joint Regent wouldn't be a surprise winner in his first hand-icap and Miracle Island is another likely to be well lorward.

	2.30	JOHN PORTER STAKES (CLASS A) £30,000 BBC1 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £20,040
(1	3B13-	PERSIAN PUNCH (165) (C) LIC Smith) D Elsysteth 6.9 1 T Quinn 3.118
2		CAPRI (203) (D) (Prince Fand Salman) H Cecil 4 9 0 K Falton 4 1/6
3	1434-1	LARGESSE (21) (D) (Mrs R Moszkowcz) John Berry 5 8 12 . J F Egan 7 111
4	62452-	PRINCE OF DENIAL (161) (C) (J.S Gutleri) D. Arbuthnot 5.8 12 S. Whitworth 1.110
5		SHAYA (12) (Sewyer Whatley) G Bravery 5 8 12 M Fenton 8 112
6	3/144	PEAK PATH (242) (Lord Weinstock) Sr M Stoute 4 8 .1 D Holland 11 11-1
17	3021-4	PEGNITZ (USA) (49) (B H Voak) C Brittain 4 8 ft
l 8	00114-	SADIAN (217) (D) (Prince A A Fasal) J Dunlop 4 B 11
19	50122-	SECRET ARCHIVE (204) (C) (D) (M Suhait) A Hannon 4 8 ft Dane O'Neill 5 109
١ō	01061-	SEIGNORIAL (USA) (159) (D) (J) D Gunthar) P Crepple-Hyam 4 B Ti . R Havitin 10 102
T		THE GLOW-WORM (168) (D) (Hon Mrs J M Corbett) B HBs 48 TI AR HBIs 2 115
		- 11 declared -

BETTING: 11-4 Capri, 3-1 Peak Path, Sadian, 7-1 The Glow-Worm, 8-1 Persian Punch. 14-1 Largesse. Secret Archive, 25-1 Prince Of Denial, Seignorial, 33-1 others 1988: Posicionas 6 B 12 T Cunn 5-1 (P Cole) brawn (I) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Persian Punch: Gained Group 3 wirs at Newmarket. Sandawn and York last year (all over 2m) Comes to hand early and is very tough. Fine chance over shorter top Capri: Winner first time up last year and close 3rd in Queens Vase. Finished with win from Robah and Sasaru in Cumberland Lodge (time) Covous chance at best tro Largesser. Confirmed last seasons Am form with Salmon Leader when a 3-length winner at Doncasser on reappearance. Shifter task today and tizes cut in the ground Prince Of Denial: Decent handicapper when ground is soft. 5-length 2nd to Alcazar in modest Listed race at Doncaster on final start. Looks containsed. Shinyer Well behind Secret Archive here last August and 5-length 2nd to Generous Roos at Kempton on reappearance. Big outsider today. Peak Pattle Bath macken winner first time out last season and finished with stalying on 4th to Sea Ware in Groot Vottogour Lightly raced and size to progress. Peginter this in Guiness and took advantage of madein grade at Windson Plenty to find on latest AW 4th to Pas de Memorres at Lingfield.

on 4th to Sea varie in cross variety in a gray in the grade at Windsor Pienty to find on latest AW 4th to Pas de Memores at Lingfield Sadlant Fine stayer and was supplietented for St Leger into the Nectawij after Salisbury win from Secret Archive. Leading contender though may set come on for run Secret Archive. Handcap winner here and held by Sadaet on following Salisbury run. 4-length 2nd of 3 to Britishing at Haydook intell on final start. Acts on fast ground selegionals Goodwood handcap winner later successful in testing ground in France. Likely to find this company too hot. The Glow-Worm: Sach in the Derby, 5th in the Great Vologius and 8th in the St Leger Modest 3rd of 5 to Dark Moondance at Newmarket final start. May stuggle again a proportion of the secondary of the secondary with the secondary.

VERDICT: Wrice was another winner for the in-Icrim Henry Cecil here yesterday and reports are taxourable concerning CAPRII, who has repartedly improved a lot since last year Pensian Punich is a tough Cup horse and he came to hand early last secsion. The trip is on the short side for him but he is sure to give Capri a run for his money.

3.00 GREENHAM STAKES (CLASS A) £30,000 added BBC1 = 7 declared = BETTING: avens Enrique, 9-4 Matsahab, 9-2 Esset, 20-1 Compton Arrow, New Look Here, Pengine Boy, 50-1 Invader 1998 Victory Name 9 0 J Red 7-1 (7 Chapple-Hyamii crash 7) 6-25

FORM GUIDE

Compton Arrow. Year on to head Micram in set; ground at Accot, Setter for 3rd (pulled hard) to Dehoush at Kempton a formight ago. Stable wor, Craven Stakes. Enriquer High class Barathea cott and clear-out winner at Goodecod and Newmarket before a 3-length 4th in Dewnturs, Reportedly in gear form on home galloops. Exeal: Very easy winner of maiden at Haydoor and then fine 2nd to Orgen in Pro. Morrow Between United Actions According to Action 1. Extest: Very easy winner or majorn at naydoor and then the arts to unper in this Morry. Returned take after 4th to Aspar at Longchamp, Stable is, great form Invader. Only modest form in maidans and, though sharper for handsoap 4th to Tactful Remark at Kentotion tooks outslassed. Stable had writer here yesterday Mutanakhoit Confirmed Goodwood superiority to the pound with Glams in Royal Lodge at Ascot. On faster ground today but line chance with stable in practicing form. Now Look Here: Haydood inaden winner a formight ago but 3rd beaten at Ripon this teach in those marketing test. week so taces massive task

week so taces massive task Perugino Bayr, Nursery winner at hork and seemingly not us to this class. Big disap-pointment when strongly fanced attraydock this month (last of 7 to Inva Lake) VERDICT: The Deviluant Stakes form needs a bost and ENRIQUE may supply it he a reported well forward and may not have produced his been at Newmarker when only fourth to Miyanid. Royal Lodge without Missahab will be a strong heal with his stable knocking out the warriers and Exeat least from a smilarly arbitm yard and he was asked a couple of sift questions after his Haydook maden with

3	.30	SPRING CUP HANDICAP (CLASS B) \$25,000 added 1m (round) Penalty Value £19,050 BBC1
1	0316-1	RIGHT WING (21) (D) (Earl Cacoccan) J Durroo 5 10 0 . T Quinn 7 V (CS
2	5503-5	PANTAR (12) (D) (R Hzznes) 52622 - 99 K Fellon 13 107
3	1-0126	WEET-A-MINUTE (14) (D) (Ed Vizerman H≥±age) R reciprotead 6.9.3 J Fortune 9.115
4		ADJUTANT (203) (J.R Good) B Meetran 4 9 1
5	2205-3	SILK ST JOHN (21) (CD) (CR S Parmers) M Ryan 5 9 1 R Cochrane 10 113
6	.040-0	ALCONLEIGH (12) (J David Abell) M Johnston 4 8 12 R Hills 15 118
7		ABAJANY (5) (D) (J White & Partners) M Charinon 5.8 m R Hughes 3 112
Ð		KALA SUNRISE (6) (D) (A E Needham) C Smith 8 B J Fanning 2 105
9	55.22-6	THERHEA (21) (CD) (R Gudge C Lews) 8 R I Sman 6 6 8 _ P Doe (3) 5 107
19		SLEEPLESS (174) (C) (BF) (Mrs & Scotney) N Graham 5 9 7 D Holland 12 95
17	G033-1	TOPATORI (9) (D) (M P Source) M Tomobre 5 8 4 S Drowns 17 108
2	T25-2	GAILY WALL (9) (D) (BF) (N Harris) Bailting 4 8 4
13	Titll	
14	06054	FORUM (201) (Wyck Hall Stud) C Britain 4 8 3
5	21120-	SWEET PEA (252) (D) (Nicholas Jones) J Durlop 4 8 2 J Quinn 19 105
16	50040	KING OF TUNES (FR) (196) (D) (Mrs 5 Sheetan) J Sheetan 7 52 R Firench 11 120
17	55520	
16	6102-1	
19		SECOND WIND (174) (C Videnson) Miss G Kelleway 4 7 3 Martin Dwyer 16 98
30	1005-0	NOMINATOR LAD (21) (D) (J D Graham) 6 McMahon 5 7 13 S Righton 4 111
		- 20 declared -
-		B B'-L-1111

BETTING: 7-1 Pantar, Right Wing, Sifk St John, 8-1 Gally Mill, 9-1 Kala Sumise, 11-1 Bomb Alas-ka, 12-1 Topatori, 14-1 Therhea, 16-1 Abajany, Nominator Lad, King Of Tunes, Radar, 20-1 offiers 1999. Yabrit El Sutan 4 & 12 R Cochrane 12-1 (8 McMahon) drawn (1) 15 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Right Wing: Classy handicapper when there is cut in the ground. Best with waiting tactics and Lincoin winner from Captain Scott. 5to higher Good draw but rain will help Pantar: Consistent in top handicaps and had Topatori in 3rd when winning at Goodwood. 3rd in Cambridgeshire (3to higher today) and better for Rosebery 5th Weet-A-Minute: 1to lower than his AW win from Thekrysati. May not have stayed fin4t when returned to turf at Haydock (6th to Couttnard). May find some of these too good Adjutant: Both wins gained over 7t on tast ground. Likely type on his final success at Haydock by a neck from Aniant (rest web beaten off), 6th higher today. SIM St John: Progressive last season and did better than Therites and Pantar when 2nd to Silven Dalliance at Ascot. Badly drawn in Cambs and 7th pull for 14 lengths with Right Wing on Lincoin turning.

2nd to Silven Dallance at Ascot. Badly drawn in Cambs and 7th pull for 14 lengths with Right Wing on Lincoln trunning. Alconleight: Lightly raced last term (4th to disc) Multitatel at Doncaster) and can do better after needed run bethind Carry The Flag in Rosebery (m2th Abajany: Well drawn and sure to be sharper for his 4th to Bathwick at Windson. Beat-en only 5 lengths in Cambs and gets 9th put for just over 1 length with Right Wing on Doncaster running last September. Stable in form and well drawn. Kalla Sunnise: Well handcapped on best form and came on for Lincoln run [9th from had they to best if the rester of the property of the prop bad draw) to bear 19 hvals at Leoester Fine chance from a fevourable draw. Therhea: Likes cut in the ground and had his surface when 3rd in this last year Well drawn when 6th to Right Wing in Uncoln but laster surface a wonly here. Sleepless: Has won here and goes wet tresh Worl at Leoester and Newcastie last season (7f) and chance would increase for plenty of rain. Nicely by

season (7f) and chance would increase for plenty of rain. Nicely handicapped Topatont: Showed his well being with Lexicister win (mi) from Gally Mill; pushed out to score by under 2 lengths. Chances on the book but poor draw to overcome Gally Mill; Progressed to win 3 handicaps last term and humped that when 2nd to Topaton at Lexicister 4th better off and goes on all grounds. Bering Giffs: 2b lower than when a decent 4th to Shloug at Newmarket but disappointed at Brighton when med in blinkers, Good draw and stable won Rosebery Hicap Forum; Falked to progress last season (some stiff tasks in Listed races). Could be considered as a live outsider with a good appreciation up but has worst of the draw.

Sweet Pear: Fairly weighted just 4th higher than her Newmarket, win last June. Better than he latest handicap run suggest. Jimmy Quenn booked but poorly drawn King Of Tunes: Useful on his day and 2nd in last year's Lincoln (Right Wing 3rd). Lines up tresh argain so has chances meeting Right Wing on 15th better terms Radair: Promised much after Sandown win last year but only 1th to Reheen at Newmarket when canced. Prefers out in the ground and badly drawn here Bomb Altablate: Modelin winner here tast season and beat 2urs at Doncaster on reappearance. Prefers some dig in the ground but chances coming of a last pace. Second Wind: Without a win since a juvenile and has left Paul Cote. Best showing last term at 1-length 2nd to Misballa at Newmarket (7to beath 2nd and 11 out in Lincoln (better for run) and 7to better or the Might Wing.

VERDICCT: A line dress has neveral a real risks in this care over the vears of Kala

VERDICT: A low draw has proved a real plus in this race over the years so Kala Sunrise, who is placed in stall two has a lighting chance of reversing Lincoln form with Right Wing, who is preftly well placed himself in save. A drop of rain will increase high Wings chances, as it will SLEPLESS. The Night Staff mare is drawn it and could be the answer with her ability to go well when fresh. Berring Giffis and Abbijany are in with a shout from a good draw and King Of Tunes can go close on his Lincoln second of last weer.

4.00 NETHERAVON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,500 added 3YO fillies 1m 2f Penalty Value £4,728

_		0.0 innes in the thanky that 14,720
T	G-	AMARETTO FLAME (187) (2nd Harlequin Pishp) 8 Mechan 6 11
2		ELA ATHENA (A Michael) M. Javis é fi
3		FIRST MIGHT (R E Sengsier) P Chappie Hyam 5 ft
4	0803 3	LITTLE PIPPIN (14) (Miss B Savre) G Bailting 8 11 S Drowne 12
5	Ų.	MISTLE SONG (203) (Saeed Manage) C Britain 8 11
6		NO RESERVE (USA) (186) (BF) (Civeden Stud) H Ceci 5 Tl K Fallon 11
7	630-0	CUITCX(STEP (14) (Lady Termant) R Hannon 8 ti
6	0-	ROYAL PATRON (168) (Se Gordon Brumon) J Dunico 8 Ti T Quinn 6
9	0-	SPANISH LADY (162) (Windflower Overseas Holdings) J Dunico B 11 Pat Eddary 7
10		STRING QUARTET (R E Sangster) P Chapple Hyarr a 11 R Hughes 6
17	42-	THERMOPYLAE (173) (A Christodoulou) P Cose 8 m
12		VANILLE (I M S Racing) P Chapple Hyam 8 11
		- 12 declared -
BET	TING: 3-1	First Night, 4-1 No Reserve, 5-1 Royal Patron, 7-1 Thermopylae, 8-1 Little Pippin.
10-1	Spanish	Lady, 12-1 Quickstep, String Quartet, 16-1 others
1998	no com	esponding race
		FORM VERDICT

FORM VERDICT Some good pedigrees in the line-up and it is fliety that the unexposed ones will prove too good for Little Pippin and Thermopylae. The betting needs watching but one of the best bred filles in training is FIRST NIGHT, who is well regarded, and she can help boost Peter Chapple-Hyam's good track record.

4.30 BURGHCLERE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) BBC1 £6,500 3YO 1m (straight) Penalty Value £5,150 E6,500 3YO 1m (straight) Penalty Value £5,150 D. ALRASSAMI (198) (Shekh Ahmed Al Makoum) M Janus 9 0 P. Bobbson 7 79 BLANKENBERGE IG E Sangster P Chappte-Hyam 9 0 R. Howfin B OP BURNA BABY (USA) (168) (Maktoum Al Makraum) B H85 3 0 N. Howfin B DETECTIVE (200) (Highdere Racing) J Gooden 9 0 OPER 11 67 OPER 11 67

— 14 declared — BETTING: 1-2 Killer Instinct, 7-2 Tohruk, 10-1 Laka Sumbeam, 25-1 Alirassaam, Hougournom, Teysar, 33-1 Blankemberge, Detective, 40-1 others 1989: Sidca Kay Service 8 9 T Cuum 9-1 (M Craymon) drawn (1) 13 ran

FORM GUIDE

mic 33-1 on only start at Newmarket when 12th of 27 (8 lengths beland Tobrush to Sasaar Stable yet to click.

Blankenberge: Gelded newcomer by Pip's Pride. Stables second string to Tobruk.

Burna Baby: Woodman and if this 50-1 shor kitneena Lad in lessing ground here beioner 14th to Mutaakdud at Doncaster Can improve and stable has started well.

Detective: Massive task for newcomer in 25-tunner Tattersalls Houghton Sales (no show). The type to do a lot better in second spell and stable in time form. Fandango Dream: 66-1 and always rear when 14th of 16 to Flavian at Newmarket Golden Prince: Polish Patriot newcomer from a stable that can throw up an outside

Golden Prince: Poish Patnot newcomer from a stable that can throw up an outsider in these type of races thougoundont: Formidable getting beaten 5 lengths by Devils Imp in a match at HO Küller Instinct: Highly rated Zatonc cott who stanted at 9-1 on at Ascot on only juvenile start. No match in closing stages for Compton Admiral (Craven Stales winner this week) and trainer says he will come on a lot for this run. Guineas favourite Lake Suntbeam: Neshwan cott who ran very well on only start, leading 11 out until headed closing stages when 3rd to Mustawaweq at Newmarket (Im). Sure to improve Selfor Alloy: Newcomer by Handsome Salior and unfilely to figure Siddons Common: Common Grounds newcomer out of Miss Siddons. Probably best watched in this strong match.

Stitch in Time: Unraced at two and ran green at Kempton 12 days ago when 11th of 12 to Oute Incredible. Seemingly little chance
Teysen: First start for Polar Falcon getting four of Law Society mare). Market best quide
to his chance and Richard Quann booked
Tobrida: Excellent 2nd to Godophris Eassiar at Newmanhet with 25 rivals behind. Sure-

we in second spell and will prove hardy rival to the tayounts VERDICT: KILLER INSTINCT had his problems after the costly defeat at Ascol and there is little doubt he will be a better horse with this run under his bett. He remains a strong tancy for the Guneas so will have to pass this test in style to justify his position at the head of the market. Tobruk is the obvious threat.

5.00 COMPTON STAKES (CLASS B) £14,000 added 3YO 1m 2f Penalty Value £9,180

| 17 | 27 PSHAITY VAIUE 29,180 | 1 | 133-1 | 134 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135 | 135

let, 6-1 Deal Fair, 12-1 others 1998 - Clapham Common & 13 R Ffrench 7-2 (L. Currani) drawn (2) 2 rar

FORM VERDICT

This is usually quite an informative contest and today should be no different with nearly all the big yards having a runner or two. Tumbleweed Quartet has the best form and should improve at this trip but he has to give weight to the Derby entres iscan and Oath and even more to the filly CAPE GRACE. Both iscan and Oath are likely to improve a tot this season but Cape Grace has the advantage of a run and will be staying on strongly up the home straight.

AYR

1.55 Norski Lad 2.25 Radiation 2.55 Clinton

HYPERION 4.05 SCOTBY (nap) 4.40 Green Green Desert 5.10 No Quarter

3.25 Fadalko GOING: Heavy, soft patches.

GOING: Heavy, son process.

Left-hand galloping course.

Course is E of town on A758. Ayr real station (service from Glasgow) Im. ADMISSION: Club £25, Grandstand £10 (OAPs half-price) CAR PARK: Free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

ILEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 26-150 (173%), L Lungo 26-182 (143%), J J

O'Neill 20-25 (16%), P Momenth 18-144 (125%), C Pariter 14-96 (145%)

ILEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 39-196 (193%), B Storey 27-170 (155%), P Niven 39-127 (165%), R Supple 18-100 (18%), S Taylor 12-71 (165%), R McGrath 11-76 (145%)

IFAVOURITES: 166-425 (391%),

TONGUE STRAP: Radiation (225), Bellator (325), Hollybank Buck 1405), Monaugity

nepri (A4U). LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Scotby (405) travels 435 miles. BUNKERED FIRST TIME: Radiation (225)

1.55 PURVIS MARQUEES HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 4YO 2m 4f Penalty Value £4,500 1 101 NORSKI LAD (12) (0) (0 Milard) P Nichols 20 1
2 C3421 RAJATI (USA) (25) (1-eatiny Ricros) A Streem ti 10 1
3 42134 THANKS KETTH (14) (CD) (Cayton Polyr Phys) JJ (Vivel 17 8 L Cooper (7) B 4 5401 NOUVEAU CHEVAL (14) (0) (Norgh Hands Phys) M Polyr 10 5 A P McCoy 5 4-2321 BRIANO (FF) (27) (M & Mrs R Anderson Green) C Parker 10 5 D Parker 8 6 000 SECRECY (14) (5 Semple) M Hammond 10 0 B Handing - 8 declared - B declared - B Handing - 8 decl

FORM VERDICT

NORSKI LAD i best here. Conditions will play to this thorough stayer's strengths and though weighted up to the best of his form, he may still be too classy for main danger Nouveau Cheval.

_			
2	.25	SCOTSMAN NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (C) £35,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £25,533	C4
1	-11201	DARK STRANGER (FR) (10) (Terry Neil) M Pipe 8 11 10	A P McCoy
2	-2mF	JOCKS CROSS (21) (D) (BF) (Mrs G Harmson) Miss V Williams 8 11 10	N Williamson
3	21226	SCOTTON GREEN (32) (CD) (Scotton Developments) T Easterby 8 11 5	L Wyer
4	FORT2	RICT LEADER (31) (Mr & Mas D A Gamble) T George 9 tt 4	R Waldey
5	1341P1	RADIATION (14) (D) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) J.J. O'Neil 6 Tl 3	A McGrath B
6	124F31	GROSVENOR (14) (D) (R Ogden) P Nicholls 8 tl 2	R Durwoody
7	131110	SAD MAD BAD (USA) (9) (P D Savit) Mrs M Reveloy 5 to 13	P Niven
8	422371	MIKE STAN (25) (CD) (J M Cretion) L Lungo 8 to 13 . M.	r B Gábson (5)
ġ		WISLEY WARRIOR (31) (Wisley Goth N Twiston-Davies 8 to 12	C Llewellyn
10	30-34F		S Taylor
Ħ	1/1P		3 . A Magure
12	06/P04	CARMEL'S JOY (12) (Mr & Mrs D A Gamble) T George 10 10 0 .	A Johnson
13		THORNTOUN HOUSE (35) (W.M. Johnstone) J. Golde 6 to 0	D Parker V
_		_ 13 decisted _	

— 13 declared —
Minimum weight: 10st True handcap weights. Cameris Joy 9st 8th, Thompoun House 8st 1:36
BETTING: 5-1 Miles Stam, Rifot Leader, 8-1 Grosserroot, Jacks Cross, 7-1 Baris Stramper. So Greet, 9-1 Wastey Warrior, 11-1 Armie Buckers, 12-1 Rediation, Sed Nad Bad, 33-1 others 1998: Papersing 6 11 4 A Dobbin 3-1 law (G Richards) 12 ran FORM GUIDE

Dark Stranger: Former Charlie Brooks-trained wroner of two novice handicaps over 2'4 miles in January but outclassed in Mildmay Of Flete at Cheltenham. Should do belter back in today's class ter outs in gours cases. Jooks Gross: Improving winner of three novice chases this term, was challenging when tell three out at Bangor (3m. soft) last month and has every chance of melving amends.

If none the worse

Scotton Green: Useful performer in rovice chases this season and maintained form when gallers 22 length 6th to Celtic Cantr in Kim Muir (2mt), good) at Cheltenham Loves the soft and has a great chance.

Riof Leader: Much improved jumper who won three over around 3m before retaining the extreme distance of the National Hini Chase at Cheltenham (4m, good), finishing a neck behind the winner despise his jockey losing his wing.

Radiations Has had successful season despite looking a hard ride at times. Finished timed after being driven out to with a novice at Cartiste (3m2f, good) to soft) test time Greevenors. Has risen 9th since meking all for very easy 19 length win in a Newton Abbot (3m2f, soft) handicap two weeks ago. Jumped well that day and still on upgrade Sad Mad Badt: Rain no sort of race when taled-off behind Royal Predica at Antitice (2m4f, good) last time but 3-times wither of 2½-mile novices. Into unknown with increased distance today.

ng chaser (jumped much better last two runs) who won a weak name searc improving Disser jumpout name treate last two rates with what a wear nowice over C&D very easily last month. Has new lockey today Walley Warnier; Had every chance when falling at the 19th in 4th Nahonal Hunt Chase at Cheltenham. Not out of it on strength of previous novice handicap win at Newbury Storm Call; Besten when tell at the last in a 2% mile novice here last month, she has Storm Galt; Beaten when let at the last in a 2% mile nonce here last month, she has shown best form over 2m and looks up against if here.

Annile Buckers: Disappointing taxounte (jumped poorly) when pulling up 4 out behind shore Party at Uttowere (sm2t heavy) last month, but has chance on win in mares novice at Towester (3m2f) back in January.

Carmol's aloy: Winning pointer but has shown nothing this season including when one-paced distant fourth at Uttowere (3m 2t, heavy) last time.

Therritouris House; Poor maden chaser who lett last time and looks out of his depth

VERDICT: A number of improving handicappers contest this event. Among them is Jocks Cross, an lucky talter last time, and easy Newton Abbot winner Grossvenor. Miles Stam also this into this category, and should benefit from the 5b claim of his capable rider, in a classe roce, however, the nod goes to SCOTTON GREEN, a CSD winner who can an excellent race at Cheltenham, jumps well and will be very well-stated to the contest of the contest by the ground.

2.55 FUTURE CHAMPION NOVICE CHASE (CLASS A) £25,000 added 2m 4f Penalty value £15,840

1998 Errespray T rt 3 R Guest 12-1 (Mrs S Smith) 8 run FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Irbee: Useful novice chaser (won four times this term) who looked unsuited by the tast ground when disappointing odds on favourite at Sandown (2m 4ft last month Bouchaseous: Former French-traved geteing, made tancomizing chasing debut at Wincarion (2m good to sort) jumping poodly to be 10 lengths third to Country Beau Clarition: Looked a rop nowice with two early season wins and was going well when brough down at Cheteriham Seemingly no excuses when outpaced 2nd behind Edelwes Du Moulin at Antiree Rimit, good. Rejum to shorter and soft ground should suit Queens Brigade: Generally modest chaser, often let down by jumping, put in his best ever performance to come from nowhere to win at Heisham (2m, good to soft). Scotta Nostra: Disappointing favourite when 17 length fifth behind Queens Brigade (Alb. words off) at Heisham last time after lay-oil. Would probably prefer husting Ringade (Alb. words off) at Heisham last time after lay-oil. Would probably prefer husting Ringade in France when an easy 3 length winner at Antiree wearing first time brilkers. VERDICT: Royal Predica, another French recruit for Martin Pipe, won well in good company last time and will be famoed to boost his trainers title claims today bribbe should appreciate the softer ground he will meet today but the biggest threat looks likely to be CLINTON, a top nowce over today's trip.

3.25 SCOTTISH CHAMPION LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE (A) \$25,000 added 2m \$15,325 1 103-H POTRITE (USA) (12) (U) (U Vecter) M Poe 8 ti 7 A P McCoy
2 25540- BELLATOR (7) (D) (P Rchardson) Mss V Williams 6 ti 2 IN Williamson
3 221C1 CRAZY HORSE (43) (CD) (Ashieytank Investments) L Lungo 6 ti 4
4 25P62 FADALIO (FR) (7) (R Oyden P Michals 6 ti 4 R Dumwoody
4 declared
Meathum weight: 10st 4ti Time handsog weights. Carly Horse 10st 2ti, Fada5o 10st 1b.
BETTING: 13-8 Crazy Horse, 2-1 Potentiate, 7-2 Fedalio, 4-1 Belletor
1998 Blowing Wind 5 ti 5 ft Dunwoody 5-5 tay (M Pipe) 4 ran

FORM GUIDE

Potentate: Has been novice chasing 4th in Cathoan; at Cheltennami. Showed still a smart hurdler when mislang all to win at Chepistow (2m. soft) two weeks ago Bellator: Former Toby Balding trained hurdler ran 10% lengths seventh behind Istabrag in Champion Hurdle before limisting 8 lengths fourth to Kinnescash under a big weight. al Ambree (zm. good) last week Drazy Horset Improving nowce hunder who looked top class on his last run when a very easy 8 length winner of valuable novice race at kelso (2m2), heavy).

Fadaliko: Ran well in Coral Cup at Chellenham beotre putang in a great run to be a length second to Knnescash at Antree (Bellator 7 lengths back in fourth and 8b better 1888).

VERDICT: Although there are only lour numbers this promises to be a very close contest. Creay Horse has improved all season but has yet to encounse annals of this class, while Martin Pice runs Potentate in this race in preference to the nonce chase. Bellator will appreciate the give in the ground that he did not encounter at Amtree but the vote just goes to FADALKO, yet another promising French reputit to jumping who has taken time to come to hand for Paul Nicholfs but looked on the upgrade at Anitree last week and will also appreciate conditions underfoot.

4	.05	SCOTTISH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (A) \$70,000 added 4m 1f £41,550
1	-20m	YOUNG KENNY (28) (D) (J G Read) P Beaumont 5 ft 10
2	33345	FOREST (VORY (28) (Old Foresters Pishe) D Nicholson 8 Ti 0 R Johnson
3	201216	HOLLYBANK BUCK (28) (D) (Mrs S Warner) A J Martins 11 3 N Williamson
4		CLEVER REMARK (70) (Ars J Smath) J Old 10 10 6 C Maude
5	13 10F	FARFADET V (FR) (17) (BP) (C.M. E.J.& R.F. Batterham) M.Pipe 6.10.4
6		PULL OF OATS (12) (M Brastord) P Hoods & 10.2
7		MR BOSTON (9) (M K Olevern) R Vicodrouse # 100
Û		SCOTEY (24) (Mrs B M Searle) R Bucker 9 10 0 R Durwoody
ġ.		THE MEXT WALTZ (14) (C) (BF) (Nrs IJ Royce) Lituago 8 th 0 R Supple
	344-4B	CAMELOT KNIGHT (7) (M (Sales) N Truston-Davies 13 10 0
П		TELL THE NIPPER (32) (9 J Crarg) M Pipe 8 10 0 . A P McCoy
t.		PETER (37) (D Whitans) D Whitans 11 10 0
C		PRIME EXAMPLE (22) (C) (R Copen) M rochurter 8 100
ä		BRIGHT DESTINY (22) (C) (Strathay: Publishing) J Golde 8 10 0 R McGrath

Manager (1951) New York (1955) A STATE Camelor (1955) New York st Ivory, 20Faradet V, Full Of Oats. The Next Waltz, 50-1 others Barone: 8 to 0 A Maguire 7-1 (D Nicholson) 18 ran

FORM GUIDE Young Kenny: Fine young chase, proven samma with wins it Greenall Grand Na-tional final and, most recently Middands National at Uttowater (4m2), good to sort) bearing Grand National their Cell II A East by 8 lengths. Use shorth Forest Ivory: Usually game stayer (find in Welsh Nabonal) but below form when hever threatening 16 length 6th to Young Kenny (levels) in McCand National at Uttoweter. Stays forever but unifiely to be good enough.

Hothybank Buck: One-paced to lengths third to Young herrry (levels) in the Midland.
National on a track which did not appear to suit him. Better judged on Elder Chase

with all Newcostle
Clever Remark: Won valuable Grade 2 Chase at Sandown (3m, good to soft) in February and holds Young kenny on form over 3m if last November Fine chasing prospect but unfined at this extreme trip
Farladet V: Ex-French chaser who ran poorly over hurgles in the Coral Cup at Chetenhum and gave little cause for encouragement when falling in a Novice Chase at Ascot Grit, good to timp last month. Full Of Osts: Lately out of form, he finished tailed-off on his last run in Ireland two weeks ago, and looks held by Hollybank Buck on Elder Chase running Mr Boston: Veteran stayer who usually runs in hunter chases these days and was Boston: Veteran stayer who usually runs in hunter chases these days and was paced from a long way out behind Elegant Lord at Aintree (2m 61 good) last week thigh improving chaser who has won very well on his last two runs, both at Tow-ter (3m 11 good to soft). He looks likely to stay the extra distance and could go

very well under his light weight.

The Next Waltz: Consistent sort having busy season, winning so hurdles and three chases before disappointing favouritie in hurdle race at Carlisle (2m 41 good to soft) last time. Today's distance should suit but has hed hard season.

Camelot Knight: Veteran stayer, third in 1997 National but lightly raced this season.

Behind when brought down at 22nd tence in Grand National last week.

Tell The Nipper: Ran great race on first run since leaving Micrael Houngains stable last the tenths of the 11 season.

Tell The Nipper: Ran great race on first run since leaving Michael Houngaris stable to be 14 lengths second to Cettic Glant in the Kim Mur at Chetienham (3m 14, good) last time. However, has not won for 14 months and is a suspect jumper. Peter: Normally consistent staying chaser who won over 2mcl back in January Looks held by The Last Waltz on his last run, when finishing talengths fourth at Cartiste Prime Example: Improving handicap chaser who won at Keiso over 4m (good) on his last run. Not out of it despite carrying 10b more than allotted handicap weight Bright Destiny: Well out of handicap and held by Prime Example on their latest run at Nelso (4m good).

Parish: Unreliable chaser, unproven over this distance, one-paced second at Sedge

VERDICT: Young Kentry would have been among the market leaders at Aintree lest week but Peter Beaumont decided to give him another season to mature. He re-ports, however, that the horse is in fine form for tackling this race under top weight and Young Kenny proved that he can carry big weights to victory when when winning the Midlands National in smalar ground. He has however had quite a hard season, winning two marathor races already, and there may be better value elsewhere Hotilyeah Buck books Rely to finish closer than at Uttowerer fitted with a first-time tongue-strap and with Norman Williamson booked to ride. CLEVER REMARIK, who has beaten Young Kenny this season over shorter, has been tenderly handled and looks well-weighted. Prime Example is having an excellent season and has place claims at least

4.40 MITSUBISHI SHOGUN TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (B) £20,000 added 2m £13,394 2T242 GREEN GREEN DESERT (7) (D) (Mrs A Tinchnell) P Nichols 8 to 10 ... J Tizzard STITL OSCAIL AN DORAS (12) (D) (DF) (Mrs L Williams) F Murphy 10 10 0 A Maguine 2F363 SOLSGIRTH (26) (CD) (R8F) (Sinneston Farmers J Baucky 6 to 0 R Johnson 001054 Blazzing Dawin (5) (D) (J Nichols (J Nichols C 20 0 & Stoney 45P0UD MONAUGHTY MAN (11) (C) (Mrs K Woodhead) E Carre 13 10 0 Mr O Fagas

- 5 declared -Minimum weight: 10st, True handicap weights: Oscal An Doras 9st 2th, Solsgirth 7st 10th, Blazing Dawn 7:z, Monaugray Man Sci 4/b. BETTING: 2-5 Green Green Desert, 9-4 Oscall An Doras, 12-1 Blazzing Dawn, 16-1 Solegitth, 100-1

1998 Lake Kariba 7 10 2 T J Murphy 7-1 (P Nicholis) 8 ran FORM GUIDE Green Green Dersent: Ran a great race to be 7 lengths fourth in the Queen Mother Champion Chase before keeping-on to be 3//second to Flying instructor over todays

trip at Antree last week
Oscall An Dorast Improving handicap chaser who has won four times over 2m this season but disappointing favourite when one-paced lourith in Market Rasen (2m1f, good) Solspirity, Factly useful chaser who won three times in the autumn over 2mil and 2mil

Lost his chance after a mistake in a 3m handicap chase at Newcastle last time. May not have the pace to win over 2m sing Dawn: Modest handicapper who has been in and out of form this season Not good enough on basis of one-paired 4th in handicap chase at Kelso this week

: Very poor chaser who finished well-behind at Wetherby (2m, good to firm) on his last run. VERDICT: In a deappointing fumout for this valuable race GREEN GREEN DESERT is the only one of these fine runners to feature in the handleap proper, and although he has nearly two stone to concede to his rivals he should have the class to do so.

Fertly Murphy's Oscali An Doras has improved all season and looks the threat 5.10 ASHLEYBANK INVESTMENTS STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £4,000 added 2m Penaity Value £3,548

eur Willy, 10-1 Fishlo's Lad, 14-1 others 1998 Crazy Horse 5 11 4 Mr B Gibson (7) 4-1 (L Lungo) 13 ran FORM VERDICT

IRELAND'S EYE is just about the form pick and, proven in very soft ground, looks the one to beat. He won decisively from Solway Breeze and Head For The Hills last pine; even with a pull in the weights, that per look held. Nousayri is an interesting newcomer and should be watched closely in the betting.

Newbury 3.30 CRLS 1 84 74 84 62 74 13-2 8-1 7-1 15-2 7-1 Flight Wing 8-1 15-2 7-1 8-1 8-1 SSE St John 9-1 7-1 7-1 8-1 8-1 Bomb Alaska 12-7 10-1 11-1 10-1 10-1 Kelle Survise 10-1 9-1 9-1 12-1 10-1 T 12-1 12-1 11-1 13-1 141 141 141 141 121 Homisufor Lad 14-1 14-1 16-1 14-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 16-1 141 151 151 151 20-1 251 251 251 251 251 Adjustment Bering Gibs 20-1 20-1 25-1 22-1 25-1 Shaked Page 25-1 22-1 25-1 15-1 20-1 Mod A Minute 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 Abonteigh 25-1 33-1 25-1 25-1 25-1

Second Wind 33-1 33-1 23-1 23-1

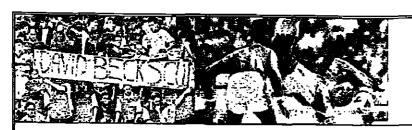
Eachway, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 8, 4

22-1 50-1 28-1 33-1 33-1

51 92 51 51 51 11-4 3-1 11-4 3-1 5-2 موڈ بطائد 7-2 7-2 31 7-2 7-2 51 92 61 11-2 92 11-2 11-2 51 64 11-2 N-4 31 31 103 7-2 Rat Leeder Jacks Congs 6-1 6-1 6-1 10-2 7-1 Persian Puzzh 8-1 5-2 8-1 9-1 9-1 Dark Stranger &1 9-1 7-1 15-2 9-1 The Giose-Morra 9-1 7-1 7-1 7-1 7-1 21 D1 141 D1 D1 Scotton Green 9-1 6-1 7-1 8-1 7-1 Windey Warnior 8-1 9-1 9-1 8-1 8-1 Secret Archine 12-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 14-1 Prince Of Daniel 22-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 15-1 Ionie Bactert 9-1 12-1 11-1 11-1 10-1 Sad Mari Bart 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 31 31 31 31 31 31 21 141 21 141 21 21 21 21 21 21 21 Radiston 50-1 50-1 50-1 40-1 50-1 ance Çall 33-1 33-1 40-1 33-1 33-1 Carmer's Joy 25-1 40-1 25-1 33-1 50-1 Each-way a faith the odds, places 1, 2, 3 Thorntown House 50-1 108-1 66-1 80-1 100-Eachway a tuster the odds, tilege 1, 2.3 C Cosal, H. Walkern Hall, L. Lachtrollers, S. Shrylley, T. Tote

	Ayr	4.0	15		
	C	Н	L	S	Ţ
Young Kenny	5-2	84	5-2	52	
Clever Remark	92	11-2	11-2	n-2	6-1
Seeting	8-1	6-1	5-1	6-1	6 -1
Hobybank Burk	6 -1	6 -1	6-1	6-1	7-1
Tell The Maper	8-1	6-1	7.1	8-1	63
Primo Example	9-1	₿-T	7-1	62	7-1
Forest brary	14-1	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1
The Nest Weltz	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1	15-1
Full Of Casts	201	22-1	22-1	20-1	18-1
Farlaciet V	20-1	25-1	20-1	22-1	81
Poter	20-1	33-1	22-1	25-1	18-1
Bright Destiny	33-1	25-1	40-1	40-1	33-1
Camelot Knight	50-1	50-1	40-1	50-1	50-1
Mr Boston	50-1	65-1	50-1	50-1	50-1
Partish	100-1	150-1	100-1	100-1	100-1

C Corel, H. William Hill, E. Landordens, S. Starnby, T. Tota



THE SWEEPER

BY CLIVE WHITE AND NICK HARRIS



Wor Kev will not be halted by war

with Hungary as the Kosovo conflict intensified on Thursday, the Football Association said yesterday that it has no intention of cancelling England's friendly with Hungary in Budapest on 28 April.

"The view we take at the moment is that if it's safe for Manchester United to play in a neighbouring country from where all the bombers are taking off [the European Cup semi-final, second leg in Turin], then it's safe enough for England to play in Hungary," said an FA spokesperson, Steve Double, vesterday.

The friendly is coming under increasing criticism in some circles, not so much because of the safety factor but because of the timing of the game which clashes with the climax to the season at home and abroad.

Kevin Keegan, the England coach, is sympathetic to the demands of the clubs involved and is expected not to draw too heavily on the resources of championship contenders Arsenal and Manchester United when be names his squad next Thursday. Chelsea, still involved on two fronts, will, of course, be much less affected by call-ups with only one player, Graeme Le Saux, in contention for England selection.

ONE WONDERS whether the Draconian measures of the FA in dealing with Robbie Fowler

for his cocaine-snorting mime might stretch a little further afield on Merseyside, in the direction of Prenton Park, for instance. If the Liverpool striker was foolish to do what he did, for which he incurred a £32,000 fine and a fourmatch ban, then the Tranmere Rovers manager John Aldridge is doubly so. In his autobiography, John Aldridge: My Story, which has just gone on sale, he details, from er who was always after an easy cident involving himself and an opponent. I quote: "Typically, I sought retribution. I waited for the ball to go into the other half of the field. checked to see if the referee and linesman were looking elsewhere and walked towards the defender. To make sure he didn't suspect I

DESPITE BOMBING contact and walked past him. Then it probably won't come as much close to the border I turned and elbowed him full in the of a surprise that his nickname face. The defender dropped to the floor and lay there motionless." A reader voiced his complaint about the passage in a letter to Liverpool's Football Echo last week but it met with an unsympathetic response from the newspaper's letters' editor. Who is he? Tommy Smith. Enough said.

> FOR SOME people it was inevitable that George Graham would bring success to Tottenham, but winning a major trophy in his first season in charge and going as close as they did last Sunday to reaching a second Wembley final exceeded the expectations of his most ardent

fans. He has certainly exceeded

SONG SHEET In praise of a man loved by the reds. (But not the reds of north London) Ryan Giggs, Ryan Giggs. running down the wing, Ryan Giggs,Ryan Giggs, running down the wing. eared by the blues. Giggs, Ryan Giggs

the life-time expectations of his one-time Gunners' boss Don Howe. In his Sports Argus column recently, Howe wrote of his protégé: "If there was ever a player who I felt definitely did not have what it took to be a top coach it was George Graham! Running a night club? Yes. Running a foot-ball club? Absolutely not. The man who has built his success first and foremost on one simple ethos discipline - was the kind of playas he called them, so he could just flick the ball around instead of ping him four or five times during a season to pull him into line... No 10 Roker Park Estate.

was 'Stroller'." So the next time he lays into you, Ginola, about not working hard enough...

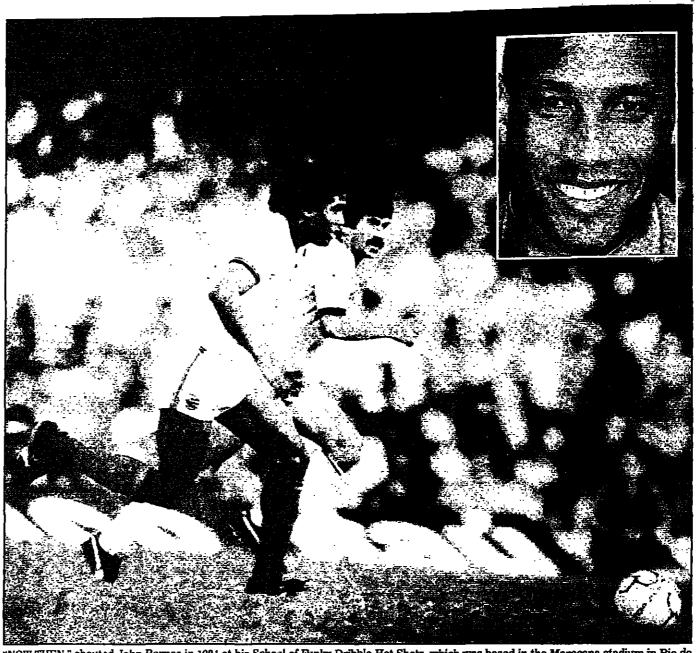
AT LEAST David Ginola can expect a better send-off from George Graham, if and when he leaves Tottenham. than

the former Spur Vinny Samways got when he left Everton three years ago. "I'd like to wish Vinny well," said the then Everton manager Joe Royle, "and thank him for the one match we won while he was in our first-team." Samways, a player of deft touch and control, was not always fully appreciated by some in England (though, unlike Ginola, he has won an FA Cup winners' medal), but he now appears to have found his natural habitat at Copacabana - that's the British-style pub he runs in Grand Canaria where he now plays for the Spanish Second Division side, not the breeding ground of Ronaldo and co.

Because of Uefa's insistence that the FA Cup must have an entrant in the Uefa Cup next season it means that had relegation-threatened Everton beaten Newcastle United in their quarter-final last month, the Toffees, instead of the Geordies, would almost certainly have been European-bound. due to the fact that the other semifinalists are already guaranteed European football - Manchester United and Arsenal probably in the Champions' League and Tottenham in the Uefa Cup. I bet Liverpool would have loved that.

FOR TWO seasons the residents on a new housing estate in Sunderland (built on a former football pitch) have been in hope that the Wearsiders would return to the Premiership. On Tuesday evening they could finally afford to celebrate, none more so than those like season ticket holddoing some hard work. He was er Susan Charlton who lives in regularly hauled into the man- Promotion Close. "Kevin Phillips is ager's office at Arsenal and told my favourite player, it's ironic that to start working harder. Bertie he should score four," said the Mee would even resort to drop- 31-year-old primary school teacher who lives, naturally enough, at

AS YOU WERE



"NOW THEN." shouted John Barnes in 1984 at his School of Funky Dribble Hot Shots, which was based in the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro and used the Brazilian national side as props. "All you nippers in the crowd keep an eye on the ball. You just wiggle like this, waggle like that, take them one at a time, get yourself in position, and BOSH!" His skills are available at a Valley near you. Ryan Giggs? Who he?

THE PRICE IS RIGHT

WE'RE BACK, A £61,20 draws treble (on the semi-finals on Sunday ing tighter than an insect's procreation gear - over 90 minutes - following Leicester and West Ham proving reliable bore draw merchants on Saturday) has sent us shooting back towards our highly-ambitious 2200 double your money target and we can turn the

we're best at - predicting draws. who have drawn seven of their 13 **ELIBERO WAGER** ewcastle may be held to a draw by desperate-for-points Everton: strugglers Southampton and Blackburn may draw at The Dell; Europe-chasers West Ham and Derby may draw at Upton Park and, tomorrow in Udine, sixplaced Udinese may fight out a screw this weekend by doing what draw with second-placed Milan -

Struggling Coventry may be held away games this term - in Chan- (Ten £2 trebles with Stanley): Coveneasy-to-get FA Cup to a draw by mid-table Middles- nel 4's live Serie A game. Looking try to draw with Middlesbrough brough; the similarly indifferent ahead to Europe next week, here's (12-5); Newcastle to draw with Evershout after their goalless draw at Blackburn (12-5); West Ham to draw home to Bologna), Parma (home and hosed), Dynamo Kiev (in lum- Milan (2-1). ber against Bayern Munich), Man- ORIGINAL BANK: £100, chester United (in almost dead lumber against Juventus) and Lazio (should be all right) all make it through to their finals.

with Derby (9-4); Udinese to draw with

CURRENT KITTY: £171.87! *************** TODAY'S BETS: £21.80 (inc. tax).

MASCOT ON THE MAT

Name: Poacher the Imp. Club: Lincoln City. Appearance: White hair, large ears, toothy smile and horns. Crime sheet: During the last two seasons the referee has. on two occasions, had to insist that Poacher leave the touchline and head off up into the stand. The problem is that



Poacher wears the Lincoln strip during matches and this throws the linesmen into confusion, especially when it comes to making offside decisions. "It's been suggested that Poacher, who stands 6ft 6in with a head 3ft in diameter, should be easy to distinguish from the players." said a spokesman for the club. Whether the officials are myopic, or whether the players have some peculiar appearance-altering pre-match snack, we do not know, but identification appears to be a problem. Poacher's only alternative might be to strip off during a game but, given his description, perhaps it wouldn't be prudent.

In mitigation, your Honour: Poacher has been an Imp for the community for some time and has done great work for local charities. His greatest moment was leading out a long line of mascots from across the country before the last England Under-21 international at Pride Park. Derby.

MY TEAMS



NORMAN WISDOM

EVERTON AND NEWCASTLE

Actor and comedian

"I like Everton because they're a big club and over the years have usually done well in both the cup and the league. Over the past six seasons they've struggled but made sure they've not been relegated. The fans are so passionate, it's like they will the players to stay in the Premiership. I'm also a Newcastle fan and, although I was upset when Duncan Ferguson left Everton, at least he went to another great team. Some of my big pals are also Evertonians, including Ed Stewart, Derek Hatton and Bill Kenwright, and my agent's son, Elliot Mans. We often got to games together. Just keep your eye on next year, the Millennium. We'll be back up with the big boys, winning everything once more."

IN T'NET

Found on the Web: Millwall AS YOU make your way through this site, it quickly becomes apparent how hard the club are trying to

shake off the bad old days of violence and racism. As well as all the usual news and profiles, there's a feature ('Black and blue') about black players in the club's past (including Trevor Lee, John Fashanu, Chris Armstrong, Phil Babb and Danny Wallace; and numerous banners, headings and flags carrying slogans such as "Lions have pride, not prejudice" and You can't defend racism." There's also plenty of information on local community projects dealing with truancy and illiteracy. One club (and one web site) will not eradicate deep-rooted social problems. but you don't change anything by not trying. http://www.millwallfe.co.uk/

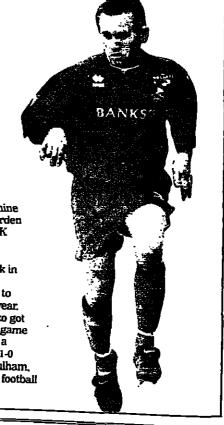
SEEN BUT NOT BOUGHT

AS WIGAN prepare for the Auto Windscreens Shield final against Milwall tomorrow, the club shop spokeswoman was full of praise for the Wembley range. including wigs at £3.99. The top hat - "made of a cottony material and quite large" - costing 66.99. was praised less. "They're not classy," the spokeswoman said. "They're an event hat really. Not something you'd wear out and about." What a sales pitch.

THEY'RE NOT ALL **DENNIS** BERGKAMP

Unsung foreign legionnaires No 35 DARKO MAVRAK: Born in Mostar, the 30-year-old dual nationality Croatian-Swede started his career with the Bosnian side Velez Mostar, and then moved to Sweden in 1993 because of the war. He played 50 games for Diurgarden

in Stockholm over two seasons, scoring nine goals as a flexible winger/striker. Djurgarden were relegated and Mavrak moved to IFK Norrkóping, scoring two goals in 27 appearances in two seasons. Spells at Panahaiki in Greece and Valkenberg back in Sweden obviously prepared him for the rigours of English football and he moved to Second Division Walsall in January this year. Having quickly established himself, Darko got off the marko on 23 February in an away game at Northampton when he cooly put away a tap-in from all of three yards to secure a 1-0 victory. If his side, lying second behind Fulham, maintain their momentum. First Divsion football beckons for them



Doctor Eubank a new recruit to ranks of fistic thinkers

JAKE LA MOTTA and Muhammad Ali wrote poetry; Nicky Piper's got A-levels, for God's sake. Now there's a new recruit to the ranks of fistic thinkers. In BBC2's history series Leviathan on Wednesday. Professor Christopher Eubank of the University of Hard Knocks In The South-East (the former Brighton Poly: travelled to Greece to explore the history of the marathon in the run-up

to tomorrow's race in London. It has to be said that though he cuts quite a figure of fun in his tweed and twill, and despite the odd distraction in his delivery (such as pronouncing "tyranny" to rhyme with "irony") he actually comes across well Wish You Were Here it wasn't, thank God.



MAUME SPORT ON TV

The programme's thesis was that the marathon gave us our very idea of sport - it's "the endurance, the valour, the pain," says Eubank, "its connection with the warrior and know about these things." Only assisting Prof Eubank, an "in-

when I played the tape back did I realise he said "as a boxer...".

I was fascinated by some of the facts: all that stuff about Pheidippides running the 26 miles to Athens to announce a glorious victory over the Persians then dropping dead is highly improbable (at least, it didn't feature in the account of the battle by Herodotus, the English Patient bloke, who was apparently unlikely to miss out a juicy anecdote like that). Robert Browning is partly to blame, with his poem about the unfortunate messenger.

News did travel fast, though, and the battle became, acthe sportsman. As a doctor I cording to one of the historians

Bursting his veins, he died.

stant legend". It was one of history's greatest bust-ups - East v West, tyranny v democracy, the underdog Greeks playing at home but outnumbered 3:1. It's because of Marathon that we have democracy today, and not whatever the Persians might have foisted on us. Mmm, we might all have been Iranians. Thanks, you lovely, lovely Greek lads - we all owe

It's not known if bets were taken on the outcome of the battle, but it's safe to say that, if they'd been taken by John Batten, he would have scarpered with the dosh long before you could say: "Pheidippides, would you just pop back to the city and give them the good news?"

you a pint on the Other Side.

programme. Are You Being letters (people who write in cap-Cheated? (Tuesday) thanks to ital letters are invariably mad. a video shot by one of his victims. at Epsom on Derby day all his wits about him). "Don't last year. He should have lost £40,000 when Benny The Dip beat the odds-on favourite. Entrepreneur. By the time the photo-finish had been sorted out, Batten, whose call sign on his permit was "Lucan", had vanished (by coincidence, Mick Wright, a detective who worked on the case, was also part of the team that hunted the disap-

"Somebody must know back for its seventh series, him," sighed David Davies, the with the scatology intact, the punter with the video camera. formula untouched. David Shop him and we'll share the Gower's still the nob, Nick

pearing peer).

Batten sent a letter to the

posed in Channel 5's consumer Racing Post written in capital of any promotional contracts Gary Lineker might have in his portfolio, or any reference to the though Batten appears to have size of his ears, so maybe

things have moved on slightly. waste your time giving this to Hancock is as unpleasant to the police." he wrote. "There his guests as ever, describing are no dabs on it." The best like Clive Anderson in the intro as ness was from a snap taken by a "charmless bald tosser", for example, while Steve Davis "started out playing snooker at ple, who wanted a picture of a "typical English bookie." On home. He still enjoys a game with his family, though these that evidence, all I can say is, days he gets knocked out in the have he and Kelvin Mackenzie first round by his Aunt Doris." ever been in the same room

a holidaying Malaysian cou-

together?

The funniest lines were provided by Jo Brand, who also ex-They Think It's All Over is hibited a sporting knowledge it's politically incorrect of me to be surprised by: "Kirk Stevens told me you can either snort Hancock's still the superlad. coke or blow it up your arse." she said when Robbie Fowler's Bizarrely, there was no mention

toot-sniffing goal celebration was up for discussion.

The funniest line was from Davis. during the photofit round, "Aren't they supposed to be three different people?" he enquired. "Well done, Steve. you've spotted it," Hancock butted in. "They don't call me Steve for nothing," said Davis.

Perhaps you had to be there. This week's Noel Gallagher Award for Originality goes to ITV's trailer on Wednesday night, straight after the FA Cup semi-final replay, for Manchester United's trip to Turin next week. It was dressed up as an Italian Job number complete with clips and Michael Caine soundbites. They must have thought about that for at least half a nanosecond.

WE INDEPTABLE

United fans defend pitch invasion

MANCHESTER UNITED fans BY DAVID ANDERSON have hit back at claims that they are the worst behaved supporters in the country.

Aston Villa's head of security, John Hood, made the accusations after some United supporters invaded the pitch at the in his comments," Walsh said. end of Wednesday's FA Cup semi-final replay victory over Arsenal. Hood also claimed fans caused a security risk by refusing to sit down during the game. The Football Association is investigating the behaviour of the

United fans, but Andy chairman of the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association said Hood has overreacted.

"Mr Hood is well over the top "Emotionally it was a very highly-charged game and, whilst recognising that Mr Hood has his job to do, he's also got to understand that after one of the greatest FA Cup semi-final games ever, emotions run high.

There was not the same outcry when Everton fans invaded the pitch at the end of last season and we feel confident that the FA will see sense and reason," Walsh said

Relatives of the Hillsborough disaster victims fear the incident could lead to the return of fences. Phil Hammond, secretary of the families support group, said: "We can't have people running on to the pitch because someone like Uefa might

those days after all the progress that's been made."

Dennis Wise said yesterday that he did not bite the Real Mallorca defender Marcelino. The Chelsea captain, who

was informed by Uefa, European football's ruling body that a disciplinary hearing will be held on Monday, was seen on television apparently trying to bite the arm of the centre-back during tell clubs they must put the the Cup-Winners' Cup semi-

fences back up. That is the last thing we want - to go back to Marcelino and Real Mallorca made no complaint and the match officials and observers missed the incident, Uefa felt it was serious enough to warrant a disciplinary hearing.

If found guilty Wise faces a ban from the return leg on Thursday as well as the final, if Chelsea get there.

But Wise, who has been sent off three times this season, said: "I didn't bite him. There was no complaint from the player, Real Mallorca, the Uefa delegate or the referee. The TV showed me Fowler has decided not to appeal gesturing to bite him and obviously everyone has jumped on the bandwagon. He was asked after the game and said no. But it's still being carried on and I've been charged by Uefa."

Wise's manager, Gianluca Vialli, was reported yesterday to be pursuing the Roma player. Marco Delvecchio. Vialli wants the fam-rated striker as Pierluigi Casiraghi will miss the first three months of next season.

Liverpool striker Robbie against the six-match ban imposed following his spat with Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux and

his coke-sniffing goal celebration. Manchester United's David Beckham, Roy Kane and Dwight Yorke are among the nominations for the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award. The list is completed by Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp and Emmanuel Petit and Tottenham's David Ginola.

Leeds have three players -Lee Bowyer, Harry Kewell and Alan Smith - among the six nominations for Young Player of the Year. The other nominations are Arsenal's Nicolas Anelka, Liverpool's Michael Owen and Lee Hendrie of Aston Villa.

Dalian Atkinson, the former Aston Villa forward, scored for the Saudi Arabian side Al-Ittihad as they reached tomorrow's final of the Asian Cup-Winners' Cup in Tokyo with a 3-1 win over

Rhino the real force behind the Lions

After 50 years away from Wembley, Millwall return for tomorrow's Auto Windscreens final. By Nick Harris

"Rhino" Stevens has probably seen more than his share of football's negative side since making his debut in 1981, aged 16, at the only club he's ever known. As his side prepare to face Wigan in tomorrow's Auto Windscreens Shield final at Wembley - Millwall's first journey to the Twin Towers for 50 years - Stevens is confident his club can give a good account of themselves, and not just on the pitch. "Our reputation has always gone before us but we've done so much to combat hat whole [hooligan] image," ie said. "We want our fans to go out, show a bit of pride, get

behind the side." Stevens' nickname, presumably earned for his charging approach to defending, was reputedly coined by Neil Ruddock when the pair were Millwall youth players. While Ruddock moved on (as did Teddy Sheringham, Tony Cascarino, Alex Rae, Kenny Cunningham. Ben Thatcher and others likely to be in attendance tomorrow). Stevens stayed to witness two promotions, two relegations, the worst hooligan era in the club's history and a close call with the ad-

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CURPENT STITE STORY

ministrator. By February 1997 Stevens was the reserve team manager, and, when Billy Bonds de-

MILLWALL'S MANAGER. Keith parted at the end of last season, he became manager. Stevens and assistant Alan McLeary, both 34 and both Millwall men through and through, are the youngest management team in the Football League.

The Lions are ninth in the Second Division and nine points below the play-off places, so promotion must wait. Tomorrow's final is some consolation. "I'm pleased to be going to Wembley," Stevens said, adding that he will only be happy if he comes away with the trophy. "There's no point in being runners-up."

For a club that has not bought a single player all season and has seen 10 players move from the youth ranks to make first-team appearances, such ambition is bold. So was fielding what was effectively a side - including four youth-programme debutants against Colchester United on Wednesday. With Nigel Spink (40) and Stevens also in the good spirit," Stevens said. We're all pulling together. That's been the key."

who have stepped up this season, four, all aged 18, stand a good chance of starting against Wigan, Steven Reid, the former expecting to have sold their en-England Under-16 striker, tire allocation of 48,000 tickets.



The Millwall manager, Keith Stevens, puts his players through their paces on the training ground yesterday

son, Tim Cahill, a promising Australian-born midfielder, and Under-18 level for Northern Ireland. "We've had some bad times.

got a set of young lads with a years, the football sometimes hasn't been great to watch and it's got more expensive for fans," Stevens said. "But it's Of the ten young players great to take part in this."

Perhaps the most remarkable statistic about the final is that by last night the club were

should Paul Ifill, Millwall asking," Deano Standing, the First Division after the last battles of the 1980s - has been youth's leading scorer last sea- chief press officer at Millwall. said. "We've got about 8,000 regular supporters. But each of as the club went into adminis-Joe Dolan, a central defender. them is bringing their mum. once of Chelsea and capped at their dad, their kids, their next nessman Theo Paphitis, who door neighbours. We've got people from all over have been asking for tickets. Not just team. Millwall won 2-0. "We've been relegated twice in 10 Southwark. New Cross. Bermondsey, the Medway towns, but places like Grimsby, Barrow. There'll even be peo-

ple from Dublin." Standing added: "It just goes to show what a ground swell of support we have even if they don't come every week."

Things have come a long

should play some part, as How? "That's what everyone's into the bottom three of the game of the season and were paramount. The problems are relegated. Worse was to come, not gone, as trouble at a match tration, only saved by the busihad previously turned around the ailing lingerie firms Contessa and La Senza and the stationery chain Rymans. "The bottom line is Theo wants to turn a profit," Standing said. "He's not going to do that here, to take the Freight Rover Trohe's here because he loves

football." Millwall's transformation has involved a lot more than football. Attempting to lay to Millwall the match could make rest the image of Millwall fans their season Should the Latics

with Manchester City early in the season showed, but they are being tackled with a wide range of community projects and antiracism work For Millwall's opponents to-

morrow, the match offers the chance to repeat their win in 1985, when they beat Brentford phy, as it was then known. Wigan are seventh in the Second Division, eight points off the play-off places, and, as with way since May 1996, Millwall fell as racist, hooligan thugs - epit- succeed, it will be a personal tri-

umph for chairman Dave Whelan, the JJB sports shops magnate who transformed the town's rugby side in the 80s and would like to see elements of rugby brought into football wage-capping and sin bins included.

"Wigan have got ambition but in this game you've got to speculate to accumulate," Whelan told the Independent earlier this season during a survey into the health of English football. "We're heavily dependent on our youth policy," he added, of where he will invest in the future. "It's more important than ever." Rhino Stevens, 18 years on from his Lions' debut, would

Goals and grades united FAN'S EYE VIEW THE GAMES

MASTER

STEPHEN SHAW

IT IS the defining moment in the history of the games master. Mr Sugden (Brian Glover) has taken his pupils on to the school football pitch in the film Kes. Joining in the boys' game he dreams that he is a star The games master as buffoon, but, from time to time, he slides much lower down the scale of infamy. He becomes public enemy No 1.

Whenever the national team performs miserably and fails to qualify for this competition or that, there will never be any shortage of pundits ready to rush forward and blame the amateurish coaching on offer in our schools. The humble games master must be sidelined, they argue: professionals and ex-professionals must be sent in to do the be able to take on the world.

This is a bizarre notion. Do we ever suggest that our history teachers are not up to the mark and that retired Oxford dons should be drafted into our comprehensives? Of course, this may be due to the fact that we don't consider academic education to be anywhere near as important as ensuring that our boys will grow up to be good enough footballers to take on Brazil.

It is more likely, however we realise that when it comes to getting Jason and Wayne to come to grips with the terms of the Treaty of Versailles on a wet Thursday in February old Chalky Wainwright is a far better bet than Prof Slingsby-Puddlefoot. By the same token, the trained games master will be, almost always, a better bet than the old pro.

A former FA staff coach told me of an incident in which a then current England international was on his course. Needless to say, the boys selected to work with the great man were "over the moon" at being coached by the star For several minutes, the international treated the boys to a stunning display of ball juggling. When invited by the staff coach to ask questions. one of them asked the player how he could do such remarkable things. "F***in' magic," the player replied. Is this how the World Cup is to be won in 2006?

One of my friends was ref ereeing a school match and finding it difficult since the linesmen were unreliable and the touchlines often invisible. At one of his decisions, a parent called: "Are you blind, ref?" My friend stopped the game, strode over to the offender and told him that such comments were unacceptable. The laughing parent, the manager of one of the local youth teams, told the teacher that he must expect such comments as part of the game. My friend told him that what might be acceptable for his team was not acceptable at a school match and, if he made such comments again, he would be required to leave. The despondent parent watched the rest of the game

The professional clubs get hold of the very best young players soon enough. Before then, leave them to the games master. He's not such a bad

in silence.

Udinese old boys face a tough trip back with Milan

hind Lazio, the league leaders. following last Sunday's 2-1 victory over Parma, face a trip to Udine for what promises to be a grudge match in Channel 4's live game tomorrow.

Udinese are far from being the biggest club in Serie A but constantly outperform their economic strength and, last

BY IAN DAVIES

season, mounted a temporary challenge for the scudetto. However, tomorrow's visitors plundered Udinese in the summer, recruiting Alberto Za-

A last term, and Thomas

Helveg, the Danish midfielder Despite their depleted condition. Udinese - who have won nine, drawn four and lost only one of their 14 home games this term, have bounced back to such effect that, folccheroni, their coach, Oliver lowing last Sunday's superb Bierhoff, the prolific German 2-1 victory at Cagliari's notori-

ITALIAN PREVIEW striker, the top scorer in Serie ous island stronghold, they lie sixth in Serie A. just seven points behind their visitors. who have won three, drawn seven and lost three of their 13 games on the road.

Udinese will be at full strength but Milan will be without both Alessandro Costacurta and the injured midfielder Demetrio Albertini.

United fans will be keeping an eye on the Olympic stadium in Rome today where Lazio entertain Juventus ahead of the latter's European Cup second leg with United in Turin on Wednesday, Juve, only seventh in Serie A, are out of title contention and Carlo Ancelotti,

their coach, is likely to rest his

Meanwhile, Manchester French midfielders Zinedine Zidane (struggling with a knee injury) and Didier Deschamps, while Paolo Montero, his Uruguayan defender is injured.

Lazio, who seemed set to coast to title success, have run into problems. Their first choice back four are suspended. Alessandro Nesta and Sinisa Mihajlovic were sent off

during last week's 3-1 defeat to Roma, and Giuseppe Pancaro and Paolo Negro are also banned. Attilio Lombardo, once of Crystal Palace, may play as a makeshift right-back.

FIXTURES (kague positions in brackets).
Today: Bologna (8) v Florentina (3); Lasket Bologna (8) v Florentina (3); Lasket Bornota (11); v Sampdoria (16) Tomorrow: Bari (11); v Salemitana (17). Empoli (18) v Piacenza (18); bit Micropropriate (18); v Piacenza (18); bit Micropropriate (18); v Piacenza (18); v Piace (14); Internazionale (9) v Vicenza (15); Perugia (13) v Roma (5), Udinese (6) v Milan (2), Venezia (12) v Cagliari (10).

Whitehaven (3.30), Leigh v Reighley (3.0); Rochdale v Hull K R (3.0); Widnes v Swinton (3.0), York v Bramley (3.0).

TODAY	
FOOTBALL	
3.0 unless stoted	_
CARLING PREMIERSHIP	,

PA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1 Charlon v Leeds

2 Coventry v Middlesbrough

3 Liverpool v Aston Villa

4 Manchester Udd v Sheffield Wed

5 Newcaste v Everton 6 Nottingham Forest v Tottenham
7 Southampton v Blackburn B West Ham v Derby

NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 12 Craye v Watford

13 Crystal Palace v Swindon

14 Grimsby v Bury

15 Nonwich v Tranmere

16 Port Vale v Oxford Utd

17 Sheffield Utd v QPR

18 Stockport v Bristol City

19 West Bromwich v Portsmouth

SECOND DIVISION

24 Liston v Lincoln City
25 Preston v Blackpool (1.0)
26 Reading v Northampton
27 Wolsall v Macclesfield 28 Wrexham v Oldham 29 Wycombe v Wigan.....Postponed

- 120

40 Aberdeen v Dundee Utd...... SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION
49 Arbroath v Livingston Queen of the South v Inverness CT... String v Pertick SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION Albion Rovers v East Stirling ...

Auton Rovers v East String ...

Dumbarton v Brechin

Montrose v Stenhousemulr ...

Ross County v Queen's Park

FA UMBRO TROPHY

SEMI-FINAL SECOND-LEG Cheltenham (2) v Kingstonian (2) .. NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE over v Kidderminster smborough v Doncaster ereford v Welling

wich v Hayes..

Woking v Terrora

Yeovil V Lech

RVBARN LEAGUE Premier Division Aldershot v Harrow Borough: Bishop's Stortford v
Walton & Hersham (or Hitchm Town): Onesham
v Boreham Wood; Gravesend v Basingsroke,
Hampton v Dagenham & Recturities; Hendon
v Heybridge Switts; Purfleet v Aylestury; Sough
v Carshalton; Sutton Utd v Browley; Flast Division: Barron Rovers v Carney Island: Bognor Regs v Grays Adviers; Brannere v Worthing;
Chertisey v Wembiey; Croydon v Berkhamsset; Leyton Pennant v Hitchin; Oxford City v
Scaines; Romford v Maidenhead (or Hunchurch); Wealdstone v Undridge; Whystelarie
v Leadnerhead; Heading v Mousery Second Divisions; Chaffon; St. Peter v Ablingdon Town;
Harlow v Westhoe; Hertford v Markov; Horsham v Bracknet; Hungerford v Barking;
Leighton v Metropolitan Police, Northwood v
Bedford Town; Thome v Banstead; Tooting &
Mitcham v Hernel Hempstead. Witham v
Windsor & Eton; Wokingham v Edgware. Third
Division & Eton; Wokingham v Edgware. Third
Division & Eton; Wokingham v Edgware. Third
Division & Hornelon & Hornelon & Lorinthian Ca
town of the Story Wokingham v Edgware.

Division: Camberley y Homenartic Division of Y Tilbury, Capton is Soutiall, Cortifilian Ca-suatis is Kingsbury, Croydon Athletic v Were, Dorving v Tring, East Thurrock v Wingate & Finciley, Epsom & Ewell v Aveley, Flacionell Hearth v Egham, Ford Und v Lewes. UMBOND LEAGUE Promier Divisi

LIBBIOND LEAGUE Promiser Divisions Ac-crington Stanley v Stalphridge; Bombor Bridge v Worksop. Blyth Spartans v Runcom, Colwyn Bay v Whitby, Frickley v Winsford; Galinsbor-ough v Emiley; Gateshead v Altrifecham; Lan-caster v Leigh RML: Marline v Guiseley; Spernymor v Chorley; Finst Division: Selective v Radditire Borough; Bradford Park Avenue v Eastwood Town; Burscough v Lincoln Urd, Congleton v Ashiton Urd; Greax Hannood v writiery Bay; Greena v Frastey Cethic; Harno-gate Town v Droyfsden; Huchsull Town v Trai-ford; Netherfleid v Matlock; Stocksbridge v Watton Abloin.

Watton Albion.

OR MARTIENS LEAGUE Premier Divisions that Took Startham; Eoston Uud v Bath Ong. Burron Albion v Dorchester: Cambridge City v Menthy: Tydfill, Gloucester City v Helesomen Town; Gresley Rovers v Warcester; Hastings v

Bromsgrove; Ning's Lynn v Crawley; Rorhwelf v Illustron: Tamworth v Saisbury; Weymouth v Nunearon, Misiland Dheiston: Berivorth v Moor Greet; Blonoich v Cinder ford: Clewdon v Blakenalt; Evesham v Stamford; Hundley Utd v Paget Rangers, Nemport (Gwent) v Sothall Borough, Reddicth v Wissech; Scattord v Stourbridge, Sutton Golffeld bitstory Westonstage, State Greet, Ashibod v Rangels, Saladock v Skringsbourne; Brackley v Bashkey, Chemester v Chemester, Ashibod v Rangels, Staten vids. Fisher Athletic v Fleet, Hawant & Waterfoomle v Erith is Beekedere, Newport (IcW) v Cartiord, Institute of the Wissanstage v State Wintstable; Crockenthill v Deal, Greenwich Borough v Herre Bay, Rangsgare v State Green Sheppey v Erith Town, Turbolder Wells v Cauterbor v V VO Athletic v High.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE errammer Division: Boston Bown v Welling-borough; Cogenhoe v Long Buchby, Desbor-ough v Wootton, Holbeach v Eynesbury, St. Neots v Blackstone; Stewarts & Lloyds Cor-by v Bourne: Sterfold v Buckingham Town, Valley v Ford Spores

Vauley v Ford Sports
UNILIET SUSSEN COUNTY LEAGUE Flink
Division: Broadbridge Heath v Pagham;
Chichester v Eastbourne Unit Hastocks v East
Prestor, Redhilf v Eastbourne Town; Ringmer
v Horsham YMCA, Salitdean v Port field, Selsey
v Langrey Sports: Whitehawk v Littlehamp
ton, Wick v Hallsham.

westury v Backwell
NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First
Divisions Atherton Collieries v Kudgrow,
Atherton Collieries v Kudgrow,
Atherton Collieries v Kudgrow,
Atherton Lik Wessley, Holker Old Boys v Salford; Leek CSOB v Boode, Newcastle Town
v Shelmersdale; Prescot Cables v Citheroe,
Ramsbottom v St. Heistis, Rossendale v
Nativench; Vauchall Gal v Glossop Newth End,
Workington v Cheville
Mortheran Counties Engy v Trackley, Eccleshid
v North Ferriby, Garlor in v Buston, Luers-edge
v Maltby, Ossert Albion v Arnold: Picketing v
Armibiorpe Welflare, Selby v Pontefract,
Sheffield v Deneby, Staveley v Hallam,
Glasshoughton v Ossett Town.
INTERLIBINE EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-Glasshoughton v Ossett Town.

INTERLIBIK EKPRESS MIDLAND ALLUMCE. Oddoury v Stapenhil, Perchore v
Knypersley Victoria; Rocester v Bridgmorth.
Sandwell Borough v Boldmere Si Mchaels,
Shifmal v Stratford; Stourport Switz v Chasetown; Wednessfield v Halestowen Harrers; West
Midlands Police v Barwell, Willenhall v Ru-hall

IEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Newbury V JEMISOR WESSEX LEAGUE: Newbury v Lymingson & New Mitton. Totton v Moneyfields, Boutnemouth FC v BAT Sports. Brockenhurst v Bemerton Heath Harlequins. Cower Sports v Eastleigh Downton v Whitchurch, East Cower Vics v Christchurch; Gesport Borough v Thatcham; Hamble v Farenam, Portsmouth RN v Wimborne.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE AND POOLS CHECK JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Gorieston v Maldon, Great Yarmouth v Diss, Haltsread v Woodbridge, History Cow-estoft, Joseph Wanderer's v Warbors Sonam y February Wanderer's v Sonamier Warton v Ele-Wroham v Harvoch & Parkerson. ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE Division: Bedlington a West Auch

> TENNENTS HIGHLAND LERGUE CUP-FLASHBURGH & Peterhead Reath's Rolle. Cox. Rangers & Hunthy, Deveronate & Buckle. Institle: Eign v Natin County. Farres Mechanics V Lossemouth: Cladinatud kin o'Net. As along Fort William & Brota Langers. LEAGUE OF WALES: Contraction's Played er (2:30), Connits Guar Normal Llansantifraid (2:30), Have fordresses (2:30); Phylip Alan Lido (2:30) SMRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premi

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: Took Hayer, Cong Warderers 17, 30) Show Powers as Shaner at

RUGSY UNION Harlequins v Bedford Lexester v Saracens (2-15)

Northampton v London Scorrish

London Insh v Bath

Eveter a Rotherham Fylde v Bristol London Weish v Blackhe ith Rugby v Orrell Waterloo v Coventi v Worcester v Wakefield JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Burns JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Burningham/Soldhull w Herdey, Harrecash, o Plot thigham. Leep poid St. Helder, a Condition by Newbury w Ottey Bradian is Ledder, Brook by Park Workey Whattesda o Man Beneric Time North: Harchley w New Burnings, Kendal v Walsall, Is hire's a New Burning, Kendal v Walsall, Is hire's a New Burning, Kendal v Walsall, Is hire's a New Burning, Appartial: Sheffield or Winnington Fart Winchard v Non-stone Time South for via nelly Cheftennam, Haward v Burtyckeler Methopolitan Police y Christon, Nortes in Vanlang Redruth v North Walsham, Tax and v Ester Weston-super-Marc v Physician. SWALEC CUP SEMI-FINAL nelli v Carditf (5 30) . (at Bridgend)

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION Blackwood v Merthyr (2 30) Dunyant v Treorchy (2 30) ... Llandovery v Tondu (2 30) ... Pontypool v Maesteg (2 30) Pumney v Bonymaen (2 30) South Wales Police v Cross Neys (2 30) UWIC (Cardiff Inst) v Newbridge (2 50) TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP First Division: Currie v Watsonians Third Division: Olenviaties v Stewart s Metalle FP, Gordonians

Clericatics visites at Seesart s Mehalle FP; Gordonans of Grangemouth AIB LEAGUE First. Division: Blackrook-College v Ballymans (2.30). Europaness v Lind-drome (2.30). Cork Constitution v Strander (2.30). Cork Constitution v Strander (2.30). Gordonans v St Marss (2.30). Gordonans (2.30). Service Municipal v Malone (2.30). Service Ballymathrin (2.30). Cortadovan (4.32). Gordonans (4.32). Evertage (2.30). Fortadovan (4.32). Cortadovan (4.32). Cortadovan (4.32). Cortadovan (4.33). Services v Dungannon (2.30). Vian detects v Sunday's Well (2.30).

CRICKET PPP HEALTHCARE COUNTY CHAMPION-SHIP (final day of four) Edghaston: War-wickshire v Nothamptonshire (11 0) OTHER FIRST-CLASS MATCH (final day v Somerset (11.30) CGU NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division

HOCKEY EHL PREMIERSHIP TOURNAMENT (Reading HC) Ment Reading Contrabuty (12 15) Contrabut & Southgate (4-45) Wiemen: High-roam v Clatton Southsh Life (10.0) Stough & Joseph (2-30) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP A DIVISION

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COUNTY CHAMPIONISHIP A DIVISION:
Lloyds Bank HC, Sydersham: henry a Statiny
(10) for Lendy a heart (1.30). Esses y Lendyter date (n.20) Cannockt: Statifs , Chechae
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B DIVISION Metatering: Northants & Beds
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WOMEN'S INTER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT (Million Regues Stadium): Severous v wettering (10 0). Liverpool Selfon v Rover Coroley (1: 0), Colonilly Severous (2: 0): Liv-erpool Selfon v hettering (4: 0): Rover Cow-ley v Colonil (6:0)

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER CHAMPIONISHIP Players, Taird legs London Towers & Newcastle Eagles (± 0). Manchester Grants & Birmingham Bullets (7 0).

OTHER SPORTS **BOWLS:** English Indoor Championship finals tot Metron Mosbrost MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car Cham-pionship (of Salvestone) (to 18 Apr) SNOOKER: Embessy World Championship (at The Crucible, Shelfield) (to 3 May)

TOMORROW FOOTBALL

1 30 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Cardití v Swansea (12 0) .. **AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD**

Milwall v Wigan (2-0) (of Wembley Stadium) BANK OF SCOTLAND SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE idet v Rungets (5 05) (at Tannadice Fark, Dynace) SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH THIRD DIVISION

FA UMBRO TROPHY
SERU-FINAL SECOND LEG
of Green (1) v St Albans (1) DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midtand Division: Cinderland v Stepched Dynamo (3.0), West-yal-super-Mare's Stamford (2.30). SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Chippennum v Barnstape: (3 0) WISHON: Chippenham & Darmaphe 15 of HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division; University Col-lege Outline & Deny City (3-15)

RUGBY LEAGUE JIB SPORTS SUPER LEAGUE Capitetord v Gateshead (6 35) Sanord v Huddersfield (3 0)

RUGBY UNION ONE Wasps v Newcastle (3.0) . . West Hartlepool v Richmond (3.0)
PREMIERSHIP TWO: Leeds v Moseley SWALEC CUP SEMI-FINAL

AUB LEARNER STORMS OF COmbined Lon-don CB (3.0).

CRICKET 1 30 unless stated
CGU NATIONAL LEAGUE First Division.
(One day): Canterburg: Hert Spirities v Lancachire Lightning Second Division: Riverside: Durham Dynamos v Surrey Lions.
Lord's: Middleser Crusaders v Nothinghamshire Outlaws.

lagi: Women's Play-off (12.30); Men's Play-off (3.0) COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & DRUISION: OTI 3 0)
COUNTY CHARMPRORESHIP A DRITSTON:
Lloyds Bank HC, Sydenhams Surrey v Esser
9 30), Essev v Kert (2 0); Leace v Suney (3 30)
Cammock: Staffs v Durham (9 30); Cheshire v
Marwock (11 0), Durham v Hants (12 30); Shrinds v
Staffs 12 0). Hants v Cheshire (3 30);
East Carlesband: Sussec v Multib (9 30); Army
s Someser (11 0); Mode v Sufrick (12 30), Someset v Sussee (2 00); Suffold v Army 13 30)
Doncaster: Yorke v Lans (9 30); Wenci (13 0);
Lans v Berks (12 30), Worts v Briss (2 0); Berks
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WOMBER'S INTER-LEAGUE TOURNAMENT
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Rover Cowley v Severonds (1 0); Coknall v Lines (5 0)

erpool Selton (3.0), Kettering v Rover Con-ley (5.0) OTHER SPORTS ATHLETICS: London Mararhon BOWLS: English Indoor Championship finals (or Melton Mowbray)

MOTOR RACING: British Touring Car Champ-SNOOKER: Embassy World Championship (at The Crucible, Sherfield)

THE INDEPENDENT

Burley still has youth on his side

Ipswich's boyish manager is close to taking his home-grown team into the top flight at last. By Clive White

EVEN TOWARDS the end of his career, at Sunderland, George Burley looked like the boy eternal. It was hard to imagine his lissom frame, which seemed wholly unsuitable for the rigours of the professional game - much less so for a defender - ever suffering the ravages of time. "Even now, he still looks 22," said his team-mate from those days, Alan Brazil. "Me? I look more like 52, yet George is three

Bobby Robson, his manager at the time, used to call him Peter Pan, but the game did catch up with Burley, long before time did, in 1981, when, in an FA Cup tie at Shrewsbury. he suffered cruciate ligament and cartilage injuries which ought to have finished him as a player. It was certainly the end of his season and he missed the final rounds of the Uefa Cup when that unforgetiable Ipswich team of Muhren, Thijssen and the rest finally did themselves justice.

Injuries like that, even at the age of 24, tend to make a player take stock of his life and Brazil believes the experience changed Burley, even though he made a complete recovery and ended up playing 500 games for the club. "It was a shock to him," he said. "He realised his career could have been over. He changed his lifestyle as a result of it and was suddenly into looking after his body and prolonging his career. He was always one of the lads who, when we had a great success. would go out with the rest of us and celebrate, but he became

slightly distant after that." Brazil admits to having had his fall-outs since with his felrealising his dream of steering the club he played for 14 years from the age of 15 back towards the top flight. The relationship never easy when one moves into the media business, as Brazil has done, and becomes a pundit. But the Sky commentator is prepared to give credit where

"When I see George I'll shake his hand and tell him what a fantastic job he's done." Brazil said. "No money to spend and forced to sell players and yet here we are on the verge of Premiership football."

This is the season when Burlev's Inswich have to dispense with that "nearly man" tag after the play-offs if the club is not to suffer a more serious break-up of its coveted playing staff. In each of those seasons Ipswich made an appalling start only to finish like an Olympic sprinter

ahead chairman David Sheepshanks' plea to "hit the ground running" this time, Ipswich promptly hit the ground firing blanks, going four games without scoring a goal, since when this impotency has been passed to the opposition in the form of a record 24 clean sheets.

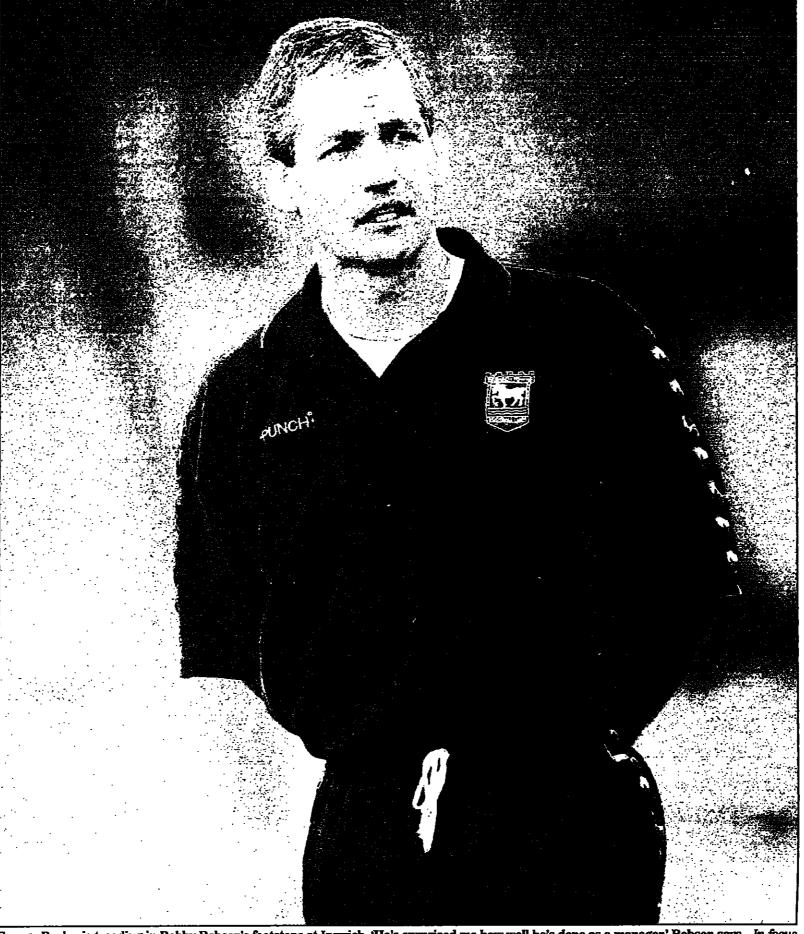
They enter the finishing straight with a critical match at Bolton today, while Bradford City, their only serious rivals for that second automatic promotion place behind Sunderland, have a Yorkshire derby against Huddersfield on their hands. The situation could not be more finely balanced: both teams are level on 80 points and, though Ipswich have a game in hand. Paul Jewell's side have scored 11 more goals.

"It's going to be tight, it could go down to the last day," said Burley, now a youthful 42-yearold. "We've got a difficult run-in, but we've shown tremendous consistency all season and with Kieron Dyer back soon we can stay in second place." Burley expects his preco-

cious midfielder, who broke his in two or three wee help restore Ipswich to the division where he spent most of his career. Anyone who watched Ipswich during the late 1970s low Scot, who is now close to and early 80s tends to get a bit nostalgic when talking about the old days at Portman Road, but Burley is not the sort to get all dewy-eyed. "I loved every mobetween former team-mates is ment of it and I appreciated the standard of the players I played with, like Thijssen, Muhren, Wark, Beattie - we had 11 or 12 internationals. But those days are finished. I get a great kick now out of producing young talent like Kleron Dyer and Richard Wright, giving them their debuts at 17 and seeing them progress through towards

full international honours." Nor are they the only ones

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



George Burley is treading in Bobby Robson's footsteps at Ipswich. 'He's surprised me how well he's done as a manager.' Robson says In-focus

most prudent purchases, the striker David Johnson, a former team-mate of Ryan Giggs at Old Trafford, whom he bought from Bury, and the midfielder Matt Holland, once of West Ham. All of them want to be seen in the Premiership, but such is the club spirit engendered by Burley that all of them would prefer that it was in the blue and

white of Ipswich. "There's no doubt that at some point some of these youngsters will want to go for financial reasons," Burley said. "But I think that they appreciate that we're the best club for them for now. Players like Wright who has played almost 200 games and is still only 21. may not have achieved what he whom the Premiership has its has done elsewhere. We talk to

beady eye on. Others include a their agents and they lost his right-hand man as other some mischief in Ipswich's He was always very, very prolocal centre-forward, James appreciate that their players are clubs have plundered his coach quest for promotion. Part of fessional. The injury he suffered

As someone who was developed in the market garden country of Suffolk, Burley is well versed in the art of growing your own, and he accepts that the regular sale of the young talent he has nurtured is a fact of football life so long as Ipswich remain outside the Premiership. The club runs at an annual loss of just over £1m a year, hence the sale this season of Mauricio Taricco (to Tottenham). Alex Mathie (Dundee United and Danny Sonner

resisted all offers last season. Trying to remain solvent while pushing for promotion requires, as Burley says, "a fine balancing act", and just to test his sense of equilibrium fur-

(Sheffield Wednesday), having

with, first, Bryan Hamilton leaving to join Norwich as their director of football and then his replacement, Stewart Houston, heading off to Tottenham to re-number of appearances for Ipunite with George Graham. It swich, is first-team coach. only needs Glenn Hoddle to return to work for John Gorman, his new No 2, to complete an

departures. just as he was as a player, from the day he made his debut as a 17-year-old at Old Trafford marking George Best in the Irishman's last United home game. "I've got my own beliefs, so nothing will change no mat-

unprecedented hat-trick of

ter who comes in," he said. "They'll fit into our style."

ley speaks of involves an away game against their promotion rivals Birmingham City, where Mick Mills, who made a record

Robson is often described as Burley's mentor and yet he never saw his young full-back as managerial material. "I thought he might be a coach one day, But Burley is unfazed by it all, perhaps work with the kids because he was a boy at heart, but not someone who would run a club," the former England manager told me from the Netherlands, where he is concluding his contract at PSV Eindhoven.

"He looked more like a school teacher than a footballer. He had this funny little Ironically, one of those old right-arm action when he ran, ther this season he has twice boys could do their former club a sort of windmill movement.

teach him how to walk again, but he was determined enough to recover from it at a time when many players didn't. But he's surprised me how well he's done as a manager. He's got success working under con-

siderable restraints." Success on a similar scale to that which Robson enjoyed during his 13 years at the club may sadly never be repeated by a club of Ipswich's stature, yet Burley is upholding Ipswich's proud tradition of producing great talent. Now they just need promotion to hold on to it.

"They're in a better position than they've ever been since they got relegated," Robson said. "If they don't go up now they will have blown their best

Zidane set for Real switch

By KIERAN DALEY

THE REAL MADRID president Lorenzo Sanz confirmed yesterday his club have been of fered the unsettled Juventus midfielder Zinedine Zidane. and that the Spanish giants are keen to sign him at the end of the season.

Zidane was quoted as saying on Thursday that he is considering leaving Juventus, where his contract runs through 2004, and would like to play in Spein. Sanz believes the French World Cup hero could well be playing for his side next season.

"Tve asked after Zidane's condition because he has already been offered to us," Sanz said. "We like the idea of bringing him in. At the end of this season we are going to sign new players. We have the money available and there will be transfers."

Sanz has promised a revolution at Real at the end of the current season - one which has seen the club struggle in the Spanish League and exit the European Cup at the quarterfinal stage - and has hinted that the poor form of the reigning European champions owes a great deal to the behaviour of some of the club's more egotistical stars. He has indicated that Real

will look to cash in on some of the big names who helped them win the European Cup last season, with the likes of the Croatian Davor Suker and Italy's Christian Panucci tipped to be leaving the capital. The defending European champions have been knocked out of all European competitions this year and are currently in fifth place in the Spanish League, 10 points behind the leaders Barcelona.

Zidane has been quoted as saying that his Spanish wife is not happy in Turin and that he will evaluate his situation at the end of the current season. "For now, I am with Juventus. For now," he said yesterday. "At the end of the season I will have to speak with [the Juventus] management and with my wife."

"When I was still in France, in Italy. In the same way, now I am saying that I would like to play in Spain.

"I don't know when, but one day I want to play in Spain." Zidane has scored 20 goals and assisted in countless others in his 129 games with Juventus. In addition to the two domestic titles he has won with the Turin side, he has enjoyed successful campaigns in the Intercontinental Cup and the European SuperCup, as well as reaching three consecutive European Champions' Cup

The 26-year-old playmaker's finest moment was at last summer's World Cup, when he headed home two goals in France's 3-0 upset of Brazil in

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Jewell wants Bradford to be calm PAUL JEWELL. the Bradford

City manager, does not want local rivalry to get in the way of their Premiership dream when they face Huddersfield Town at Valley Parade today.

Bradford are in contention for the second automatic promotion place and Jewell is determined his players will not be sidetracked by the derby.

"These games give more of an incentive to the supporters than anyone else." he said.

"The players will notice the difference with the atmosphere but at the end of the day there are still only three points at

victory over Wolves at St

Andrew's would take them a

significant step closer to the

Ian Bowyer, Birmingham City's first-team coach, believes

BY DAVID ANDERSON

Premiership. "If we can get the right result it will be a massive boost for our play-off push." he

At the other end of the table Crewe's Dario Gradi has set his side a stiff target of winning their five remaining games to avoid relegation. The bottom-placed club face

play-off hopefuls Watford at Gresty Road and Gradi said: "If we win all our games then we won't get relegated."

The Hornets are expecting a real battle and Graham Taylor said: "They drew with Birmingham and won 5-1 at West Brom and you don't usually get results like that unless you have something to offer."

told his players to go for broke against Grimsby at Blundell Park in a desperate bid to beat the drop. Bury played well despite losing 5-2 to Sunderland in midweek and Warnock said: "If we play like that we can beat anyone, but if we make the same mistakes in defence we can also be beaten."

Alan Buckley, the Grimsby manager, is expecting a tough afternoon and he said: "In Neil Warnock, Bury have a manager well versed in taking teams up through the divisions and he also makes his sides very difficult to play against."

According to Malcolm Shotton, Oxford's fight against relegation could go right down to the wire. They travel to fellow strugglers Port Vale in a six-Bury's Neil Warnock has pointer and the manager said Crystal Palace.

eight clubs who know they're still in danger of the drop. Port Vale's Brian Horton

said: "With us both being down at the bottom, this is obviously seen as the big one, but all our remaining games are big ones because of where we are." Like Shotton, Portsmouth's

Alan Ball believes that any of eight teams could go down but he is confident his side will avoid the drop - even though they are only three points above the relegation zone. They face West Bromwich Albion today, who have faded out of the play-off picture after a disastrous recent run.

Swindon Town travel to Selhurst Park to face the resurgent, if still heavily indebted,

PRETENDERS

NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION: PROMOTION RUN-IN

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tol City (A): 2 May: [pswich (H): 9 May: Sunderland (A).

BOLTON WANDERERS: Today: [pswich (H): 20 Apr: Norwich (A): 23 Apr: Bury (A): 30 Apr: Wolves (H): 9 May: Portsmouth (A).

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: Today: Birmingham (A): 25 Apr: WBA (H): 30 Apr: Bolton (A): 4 May: Grinsby (A): 9 May: Bratiford City (H).

WATFORD: Today: Crewe (A): 20 Apr: Port Vale (A), 24 Apr: Crystal Palace (H): 1 May: Barnsley (A): 9 May: Grimsby (H).

Dundee get cold feet over United buy-out DUNDEE HAVE pulled out of a 'Equally, we believe it could

proposed deal which could have seen them being bought out by their city rivals. They were reportedly the subject of a 22m bid from Dundee United, but it is believed that Dundee have now

dismissed the idea. Dundee have started construction work to bring their dilapidated Dens Park ground up to the Scottish Premier League standards. The work must be completed by 31 July, otherwise they risk being thrown out of the Premier League.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Neither club has commented publicly on the proposals, although it is believed talks were so far advanced that a press conference had been called for last Monday afternoon to announce the deal.

"We have always maintained that any joining together of the clubs would have to be slanted and Sky TV, all five closing in favour of United because of matches have been switched to the respective assets owned." 23 May, with all games set for said a United spokesman, a 6.05pm kick-off.

happen only if it was acceptable to the board of directors of Dundee Football Club. To date

that has not happened and the clubs remain separate." Rangers have failed to have their last game of the season against Kilmarnock moved back to its original date of 22 May. Under the deal between

the Scottish Premier League

Rangers' secretary, Camp-- which would clash with the FA United and Newcastle – but was told his request had no chance of being granted.

"They said Sky couldn't allow us to play on the Saturday because there wasn't another

suitable time slot," Ogilvie said, One of the front-runners to replace Jim Farry at the Scottish Football Association has

The Scottish Football bell Ogilvie, contacted the League secretary, Peter Don-League asking for the change ald, had been seen as the ideal man to step into the sacked Cup final between Manchester Farry's shoes as the SFA chief executive. However, with the SFA currently drawing up a short-list from the 45 initial applications, Donald has admitted

he is not interested. "I have a job in football which I enjoy and there is still a number of challenges for me with the League," Donald said. "I am not interested in going to ruled himself out of contention. the SFA."

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Weekend guide to the Premiership



Southampton v Blackburn Rovers

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Last season: 3-0

FOR SOUTHAMPTON and Blackburn, six- BY NICK HARRIS pointers do not get much bigger than this. A win for the Saints - coupled with Charlton failing to beat Leeds - would lift them out of the bottom three for the first time this season. A win for Blackburn would see Brian Kidd's side given a similarly timely injection of hope. A draw would be of little use to either team, although third from bottom Rovers have a game in hand on the two sides below them and a point would be as beneficial for morale as much as for safety.

The Southampton manager, Dave Jones, has seen his team win five and draw one of their last six games at The Dell, but will be acutely aware that as the season draws to a close, the nerves will start to show and the

pressures will intensify. In this atmosphere, he will be hoping that Latvia's Marians Pahars - recently signed from Skonto Riga for £800,000 and due for a home debut - can produce the kind of performances that have seen him dubbed "the Latvian Michael Owen." Jones said vesterday: "We have tried not to push him too quickly but he has settled in well. He speaks some English but football is a pretty universal language. Assuming there are no

problems he will figure tomorrow." At times like these in the past, Matt Le Tissier (left) has come to the rescue more than once and should continue in the starting line-up. Moroccan midfielder Hassan

Kachloul should start after missing last ongoing problems with tonsilitis and week's 3-0 defeat at Aston Villa through international duty, while defender John Beresford could be recalled to the squad following a long-term knee problem after proving his fitness for the reserves. Goalkeeper Neil Moss (groin) is expected to recover and continue in place of the injured Paul Jones, although defender Ken Monkou misses the game due to a one-match ban.

The former Saint Kevin Davies could be given a surprise place in the Blackburn starting line-up alongside Ashley Ward, due to iniuries to Matt Jansen and Chris Sutton. Davies, with just one Premiership goal since his £7.25m move from The Dell last summer, has been low on confidence after

criticism from the fans. Kevin Gallacher (right) also comes into contention after his injury problems, and his inclusion would probably offer Rovers their best chance of goals. In midfield Billy McKinlay has suffered a recurrence of his groin injury and is doubtful, although Lee Carsley may be available as he has improved in his bat-

De avaluable as ne has improved in his pat-tle against an ankie problem.

Southampton (from) Moss, Hiley, Dodd, Lundelwam, Chieter, Marsden, Le Tisser, Dirugnes, Oakley, Nachloul, Mink, Benali, Ripley, Stensgaard

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from) Filan, McAteer, Henchoz, Peacots, Broomes, Davidson, Gulespie, Johnson, McKinlay, Dunn, Carsley, Wilco. Ward, Dowes, Gallacher, Marcolin, Taylor, Filowers

Suspensions: Southampton: Montiou





Chariton Athletic v Leeds United

Last season: No fixture



CHARLTON WILL again rely on their third-choice goalkeeper Andy Petterson when they face Leeds at The Valley today. Simon Royce has been absent since injuring his knee in training last month while Sasa Ilic was taken off on a stretcher off during the win over West Ham.

Striker Clive Mendonca is suffering from a back injury and will have a late fitness test.

Leeds will be without their Norwegian international duo Alf Inge Haaland and Gunnar Halle - Haaland is still struggling with a groin injury while Halle sustained a knee problem during the goalless home draw with Liverpool on Monday. The Welsh Under-21 international, Matthew Jones, who replaced Halle on Monday, in contention to start only his second game

David O'Leary might switch Jonathon Woodgate from the centre to right back, and play David Wetherall alongside captain Lucas Radebe. Lee Bowyer faces Charlton for the first time since he joined Leeds in the summer of 1996 for £2.6m. CHARLTON ATHLETIC (from): Barnes, Barness, Beale, Bright, Brown, For-tune, Hunt, S Jones, K Jones, Kinsella, Konchesky, Mendonca, Mills, Mortimer, Newton, Parker, Perterson, Powell, Pringle, Redfearn, Robinson, Rufus, Tiler, Toms, Youds.

LEEDS UNITED (from): Marryn, Radebe, Wetherall, Wijnhard, Hasselbaink, Ribeko, Bowyer, Hopkin, Gramille, Kewell, Harte, Knarvik, Bazry, Woodgate, Smith, Jones, Robinson.



Coventry City v Middlesbrough

Last season: No fixture



OVENTRY EXPECT to be unchanged despite Paul Telfer suffering a dead leg at Everton on Sunday. He has been under treatment and is expected to be fit. Striker John Aloisi is in the frame to play up front, with Noel Whelan dropping into midfield if Telfer does not play.

Gordon Strachan's biggest decision will be whether to pick Darren Huckerby. The striker has now gone 13 games without a goal and has struggled to find his best form as the side have pulled themselves out of the bottom three.

Strachan kept faith with him against Everton but described the team's first-half performance in the 2-0 deleat as a "waste of time" and could be tempted to bring Aloisi in from

Middlesbrough will give late fitness tests to Paul Gascoigne, Gary Pallister and Robbie Mustoe but their Italian defender Gianluca Festa is out with a thigh injury, and wing-back Robbie Stockdale is suspended as Bryan Robson's side look to build

on a run of six games undefeated. COVENTRY CITY (From): Hedman, Breen, Shaw, Williams, Burrows, Telfer, Mc-Alisser, Soitvedt, Boateng, Whelan, Huckerby, Alorsi, Clement, Gloacchini, Kirkland, Konjic, Edworthy, Boland.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF



Liverpool v Aston Villa

Last season: 3-0



LIVERPOOLS FLEETING hopes of Europe will be put to the test today without hamstring victim Michael Owen. Karlheinz Riedle will take his place, with the Anfield side knowing they can claim fifth spot and overtake Aston Villa if they win their

Owen, injured at Leeds on Monday, won't play again until next season, which means Sean Dundee also comes into the reckoning up front.

Rigobert Song will be back after international duty with Cameroon, while Steve Staunton is fighting to recover from an ankle injury. Vegard Heggem is still doubtful with a leg injury. Paul Merson is hoping to win a recall to the starting line-

up for Villa after being on the bench for the last four games

but he impressed as a substitute during last Saturday's 3-0 win against Southampton. Villa do have a vacancy to fill in midfield because Alan Thompson is set to miss the rest of the season with the hamstring injury he suffered in that game but Lee Hendrie is also

pressing for his place after taking over from Thompson.

LIVERPOOL (from): James, Gerrard, Heggem, Song, Babb, Staunton, Carragher,
Matteo, McManman, Ince, Redkrapp, Berger, Redle, Fowler, Dundee, Fredel,
Jornebye, Fern, Thompson, Leonhardsen.



Manchester United v Sheff Wed

MANCHESTER UNITED'S reserve goalkeeper Raimond van der Gouw is on standby with Peter Schmeichel receiving treatment on a slight groin strain picked up in the FA Cup win over Arsenal. He is expected to be fit enough to face Juventus in next Wednesday's European Cup semi-final. Byan Giggs has little chance of playing today after picking up a foot injury but should also be fit for Turin. The injury is not as serious as first anticipated and that will be a relief to Alex Ferguson, given his current form, which led to the wondergoal that sank the Gunners. Swedish winger Jesper Blomqvist, who started Wednesday's game ahead of Giggs, is also having treatment after taking a

knock against Arsenal. Yugoslav international Dejan Stefanovic has made himself evailable for Sheffield Wednesday again. Stefanovic had decided not to play for the Owls in the wake of the Kosovo crisis - and with friends and family living in and around Belgrade – but the defender played in the reserves in midweek and comes into contention in an otherwise injury and suspension-free squad.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): Van der Gouw er Schmeichel, G Neville, Stam. Johnsen, P Neville, Beckham, Keane, Butt. Scholes, Cole. Yorke, Solskjaer, Blompriss, Sheringham, Irwin, Greening, Curuls, Culkin, SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): Smilek, Atherton, Jonk, Newsome, Walker, Carbone, Booth, Sanerd, Cobian, Humphreys, Briscoe, Stefanovic, Emerson, Hinchcliffe, Rudi. Alexandersson, Sonner, Cresswell, Scott, Pressman.

... And statistics

The away-day kings from Manchester

AS IF Manchester United's superlative performance against Arsenal in the FA Cup in midweek didn't illustrate how good they can be away from fortress Old Trafford, statistics show they would have won all six Premiership titles (instead of just the four) on away form since 1992. In five of the six completed seasons they comfortably won more away points than their nearest rivals and in the sixth (1994-95) won as many as Blackburn and had a better goal difference. The titles won by Blackburn (that year) and Arsenal (last season) were secured by a single point on each occasion, courtesy of home form.

For every 100 points gained in the Premiership, statistics show around 60 are gained at home. Only one top flight side - ironically Nottingham Forest - are having a season where they're gaining more points on their travels than at home.

United travel well...

Man Utd

Man Utd

Arsenal

Own ground advantage

Points dropped

13

14

18

21

22

22

23

26

27

27

28

31

at home 1998-99

Season

Everton and Wimbledon and only one win at the City Ground, in the first game of the season against Coventry. Last season, both Wimbledon and Crystal Palace found it more difficult to gain points at Selhurst Park - Palace to the extent of gaining two points away for every point at home. The only English league club to have more difficulties with their home form is not surprisingly Brighton, who have managed six more points on their travels than at

their Gillingham "home". Some teams rely too heavily on home advantage to the detriment of gaining points on their travels. Southampton. Coventry and Blackburn are in the relegation scrap because their away form is a pale imitation of what they can do at home. Even their rewards in front of partisan crowds are small compared to

That's thanks to victories at Southampton, the Premiership's leading sides. Messrs Vialli and Ferguson at Chelsea and Man Utd have fostered a meanness on their own turf to be envied. They have been defeated at home only once apiece - when West Ham won 1-0 at Stamford Bridge and when Middlesbrough won 3-2 at Old Trafford respectively. And then there is Arsene Wenger - the last time Highbury witnessed a Premiership defeat was in December 1997, 3-1 to Blackburn, 26 games ago.

Most of the Premiership goalscorers who ger into double figures score the majority of their goals on their own grounds. It should come as no surprise that among the handful who score just as readily on their travels are Manchester United's three main strikers.

Players scoring 10 or more Premiership goals this season

(7)

(6)

... and so do their strikers

J Euell 10

G Zola 10

		points	points	points				
			_		Better at home		Just as happy aw	lay
1992-93	Man Utd	84	47	37	Plaver Goals	(home)	Player Goals	(home)
	Aston Villa	74	44	30	-		-	
1993-94	Man Utd	92	48	44	M Owen 18	(12)	D Yorke 16	(8)
	Blackburn	84	47	37				
1994-95	Blackburn	89	53	36	H Ricard 15	(10)	A Cole 15	(9)
	Man Urd	88	52	36	D Dublin 14	(10)	J F Hasselbaink 15	(9)
1995-96	Man Urd	. 82	49	33	R Fowler 14	(9)	O G Solskjaer 11	(6)
•.•	Newcastle	78	52	26	N Aneika 13	(8)	TAFlo 10	(8)
1996-97	Man Urd	75	41	.34	D Bergkamp 11	(7)		
	Newcastle	. : 68	42	25	J Joachim 11	(7)		



Club

Man Utd

Leeds

Liverpool

Middlesbrough

Aston Villa

Coventry

Newcastle

Southampton

Wimbledon

Leicester

Chariton

Sheff Wed

Everton

North Forest

Statistics: Brian Sears / Nick Harris

Derby

1997-98

(so far)





64

63

37



27





1998-99 (so far)



Southampton Leeds Coventry Tottenham Arsenal Blackburn Middlesbrou Wimbledon
Liverpool
West Ham
Aston Villa
Derby
Man Utd
Newcastie
Everton
Sheff Wed
Charlton
Leicester

22 30 17 13 27 13 14 12 28 16 30 18 30 19 11 29 18 33 37 27 10 17 8 21 17 18 3 32 31 Chelsea Notem Forest 10

MONDAY (8PM)

Arsenal v Wimbledon

Last season: 5-0



FA Cup semi-final replay defeat by Man-

chester United may have been, but at least

Arsenal have the luxury of a long weekend

scheduled for Monday night. Despite the disappointment of Wednesday's loss, Arsène Wenger's side are still very much in contention for the title and their League form to date this year is nothing if rently unbeaten in 17 League games and the last player to score a League goal against them at Highbury was Leeds' Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink on 20 December.

On top of that impressive run, Arsenal have lost just three times this season, one incidence of which came courtesy of Monday's opponents at Selhurst Park back in to recover, with this cross-town meeting November, when Efan Ekoku scored the

Wimbledon, however, are presently in no way reproducing the form they were showing before Christmas, having won only one of their last 11 and disappeared out of the not that of champions. The Gunners are currunning for a Uefa Cup place. It is perhaps no coincidence that their wretched League form has coincided with the convalescence of their charismatic manager. Joe Kinnear, souads: To be announced. and, with their portly forward John Hart-

son utterly failing to justify his £7.2m transfer fee, it is difficult to see past Arsenal claiming another three points, especially as

does not begin until after this match. Wimbledon's cause will not be helped by the absence of both Ekoku and Michael Hughes. The Nigerian international is out for the rest of the season after surgery on a torn cartilage and Hughes has also just left hospital, having finally succumbed to his long-term groin trouble and undergone a double hernia operation vesterday.

Martin Keown's two-match suspension

Referee: S Lodge (Barnsley)



Newcastle United v Everton

Last season: 1-0



THE YOUNG Newcastle duo David Beharall and Steve Caldwell are standing by to make Premiership debuts after injury problems have limited Ruud Gullit's options. The FA Cup finalists are without the injured Steve Howey. Laurent Charvet and Didier Domi and the suspended Nikos Dabizas, and either Beharall or Caldwell will team up with 19-year-old Aaron Hughes in central defence. The former Everton striker Duncan Ferguson, who made his comeback in the semi-final victory over Tottenham Hotspur last Sunday, may have to settle for a bench place.

Don Hutchison returns for Everton after a three-match ban against Newcastle, the club he supported as a boy. Nicky Barmby serves a one-game suspension, while David Unsworth returns after recovering from the illness that ruled him out last Sunday, Marco Materazzi will make way for Unsworth and will also miss out next week against Charlton as Walter Smith sees no point in including the Italian knowing he is then banned for the rest of the season. Ibrahima Bakayoko is back in the squad after international duty but could be on the bench after Kevin Campbell's two goals against Coventry.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): Gwen, Harper, Barton, Griffin, Hughes, Beharall, Caldwell. Speed, Hamann, Lee, Georgiadis, Maric, Brady, Ketsbaia, Shearer, Ferguson, Pearce, McClen.

guson, Peaule, Medica, Ever, Short, Watson, Unsworth, Ball, Hutchison, Dacourt, Germitil, Jeffers, Campbell, Grant, Cadamarteri, Degn, Ward, Bakayoko, Simonsen. Suspensions: Newcastle: Dabizas. Everpon: Barmby.



Nottm Forest v Tottenham

Last season: No fixture



PIERRE VAN HOOLJDONK is expected to keep his place in the Nottingham Forest line-up despite an argument with manager Ron Atkinson over his performance in last Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Derby. Forest will be without Carlton Palmer for a game which could see them relegated.

Tottenham's Darren Anderton faces a late test on a hip injury and with Andy Sinton another doubt, manager George Graham is likely to make changes. Anderton and Sinton both took knocks in last Sunday's FA Cup semi final defeat by Newcastle and it could mean rare starts for Ruel Fox and Jose Dominguez - in the Portuguese winger's case his first this season. Graham also has promising young defender Ledley King in a 19-man squad. Full-back Justin Edinburgh is still serving a four-match suspension after being sent off in the Worthington Cup final and this will be extended to five games after he collected a fifth yellow card this season a week later. Stephen Clemence is fit again after three months out with a calf injury and is added to the squad.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): Crossley, Louis-Jean, Gough, Edwards, Chettle Rogers, Freedman, Jonnson, Bonalan, Van Hooldonk, Harewood, Shipperley, Woan Mattsson, Lyttle, Porfirlo, Stensaas, Hjelde, Goodlad. TOTTENHAR HOTSPUR (from): Walker; Carr, King, Nilsen, Campbell, Tancco, Young, Freund, Sherwood, Nielsen, Fox, Dorninguez, Cemence, Anderton, Ferdinand, Iversen, Ginola, Armstrong, Baardsen (gk).

ilons: Forest: Palmer. Spurs: Edinburgh.



% home

DOINES

61.5

57.7

59.8

games

63

at home

718

749

656

647

11

13

25

37

26

27

38

Home Away Gap Home

18

16

15

14

13

West Ham United v Derby County

Last season: 0-0



WEST HAM'S Paul Kitson is out of because of a hip injury, so Ian Wright is set to start. The former Arsenal manager tasted his first competitive action since January as a substitute in last week's 0-0 draw with Leicester and it is most likely that Harry Redknapp will name him in the starting XI. England defender Rio Ferdinand is still out with ankle ligament damage despite hopes that he might have returned. The Cameroon international Marc-Vivien Foe is back from international duty. and that could mean Eyal Berkovic dropping to the bench if Harry Redknapp uses a 4-4-2 formation.

Derby plan to take the game by using three strikers at Upton Park. Although top scorer Deon Burton is suspended, Mikkel Beck is back from injury and Dean Sturridge could also link up with the Dane and Paulo Wanchope in a three-pronged attack. Derby still have their Croatian captain Igor Stimac and the Italians Stefano Eranio and Francesco Baiano on the injury list while Vas Borbokis and Rory Delap are out for the rest of the season.

WEST HAM (from): Hiskop, Potrs, Ruddock, Pearce, Minto, keller, Sinclair, Lomas, Foe, Lampard, Berkonc, Wright, Di Canio, Ponest, Cole, Lazaridis, Moncur, Coyne, Holligan, Abou, Boylan.

DERBY (from): Hoult, Prior, Carbonari, Schnoor, Laursen, Powell, Bohinen, Dor-go, Sturndge, Beck, Wanchope, Poom, Harper, Elliott, Christie, Jackson, Bridge-Wilkinson, Murray. Suspensions: Derby: Burton.

TOMORROW 2PM



Chelsea v Leicester City

Last season: 1-0



GIANLUCA VIALLI has an injury and suspension-free side to select from for tomorrow's game. Franck Leboeuf and Celestine Babayaro both missed the Blues' midweek 0-0 draw at Middlesbrough through injury but are back in the squad. Gustavo Poyet picked up a slight knee injury during the game at the Riverside and had been considered a slight doubt but he trained alongside the rest of the squad yesterday.

Leicester's Frank Sinclair makes an emotional return to Stamford Bridge after escaping a two-match ban. The 27-year-old thought he may have to miss the game along with Leicester's next away trip - to Liverpool next Wednesday - after nicking up 11 bookings. However, an FA disciplinary panel decided against imposing a suspension and, instead, Sinclair was given an undisclosed fine and a warning about his future conduct. Leicester's other former Chelsea player, Muzzy Izzet, remains doubtful after

missing the last two games with a hamstring problem. CHELSEA (from): De Goey, Kharine, Hirchcock, Leboeuf, Desaiky, Le Saix, Ferrer, Myers, Duberry, Lambourde, Terry, Petrescu, Di Matteo, Babwaro, Poyer, Wise, Goldback, Newston, Nicholls, Morris, Zola, Flo. Forssell, Wallin LECOSTER CTV (from) Keller, Aphenad, Guppy, Jaggart, Sincian, Elliott, Ullactionne, Lennon, Impey, Gumbargsson, Parker, Heskey, Cottee, Shagge, Kaamark, Miller, Marshall, Fenton, Wilson, Campbell, Zigoraks





SP()RT



PETER PAN'S PREMIERSHIP PUSH P30 (MEYER'S MARATHON QUEST P22

United to pound out title message

AFTER A MOMENT of genius which reminded all but the most blinkered Manchester United-haters of what drew them to football in the first place, the Premiership reconvenes today with both the title race and the relegation issue so finely balanced that a winner entering the net via a backside or a big toe will be received as if it were Ryan Giggs' glorious goal recreated. Points, rather than perfor-

mances, are all that matter now. The top three's next fixand get three points," he said. tures are all at home to sides roughly one win from safety. with Chelsea and Arsenal, who do not receive Leicester and Wimbledon until tomorrow and Monday respectively, doubtless hoping the exertions of Wednesday's FA Cup semi-final replay take their toll on Manchester United against Sheffield

Ironically, the victors may have paid a heavier price than the vanquished, and not simply in terms of tired limbs. The dis missal of Roy Keane against Arsenal will cost United their captain's services later in the run-in. More pressingly, the injuries sustained by Giggs and Peter Schmeichel will almost certainly force them out against Wednesday, if not on Wednesday, when they play the second leg of their European Cup semi-

final away to Juventus. With the Stadio delle Alpi in mind, Alex Ferguson may be tempted to seek the same balance between first choices and fringe players that served him so well at Villa Park. Several of his B list, notably Teddy Sheringham, played outstandingly, and there is a strong possibility

FOOTBALL BY PHIL SHAW

that the former York City striker Jonathan Greening will face Wednesday.

Ferguson's deputy, Steve McClaren, alluded yesterday to the psychological warfare which is a characteristic of all United's campaigns. "We need to send out a message to the rest of the Premier League that, even after the hectic week we've had, we can bounce back

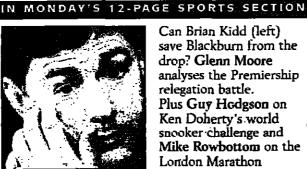
Wednesday's last visit ended in the 6-1 defeat which cost David Pleat his job as manager. But their away form under Danny Wilson (a 7-0 loser with Barnsley at United a week before Pleat's grim finale) is respectable enough to concern Ferguson, who will be wary of a player who began with Turin's other club, Benito Carbone.

Criticism of Chelsea for "failing" to take over at the top in midweek betrayed a patronising attitude towards Middlesbrough. But as surely as Gianluca Vialli will appear for his post-match interviews in the obligatory pullover, Chelsea remain well placed to win their points is, if anything, more first title since 1955, especially with United's resources being strained by their own success. Leicester, who have taken

more points on their travels than any club in the lower half of the table, should provide obdurate opposition. It took a freakish strike by Franck Leboeuf to beat them last time they were at Stamford Bridge. and a preposterous penalty award by Mike Reed to finish them in an FA Cup replay the previous season. They will also have a Chelsea "reject", Frank Sinclair, bursting to thwart his old club after being unexpectedly cleared to play by the FA's disciplinary committee.

Leeds, whose prospects of reaching the Champions' League receded with Monday's draw against Liverpool, have the chance to renew the pressure on Chelsea and Arsenal by winning at Charlton today. Alan Curbishley, the home manager, almost erred on the side of talking up Leeds unduly yesterday, hail-

ing their "pace, power, talent and experience" as well as the growing maturity of the Valley old boy Lee Bowyer. But Charlton's need for



Can Brian Kidd (left) save Blackburn from the drop? Glenn Moore analyses the Premiership relegation battle. Plus Guy Hodgson on Ken Doherty's world snooker challenge and Mike Rowbottom on the London Marathon

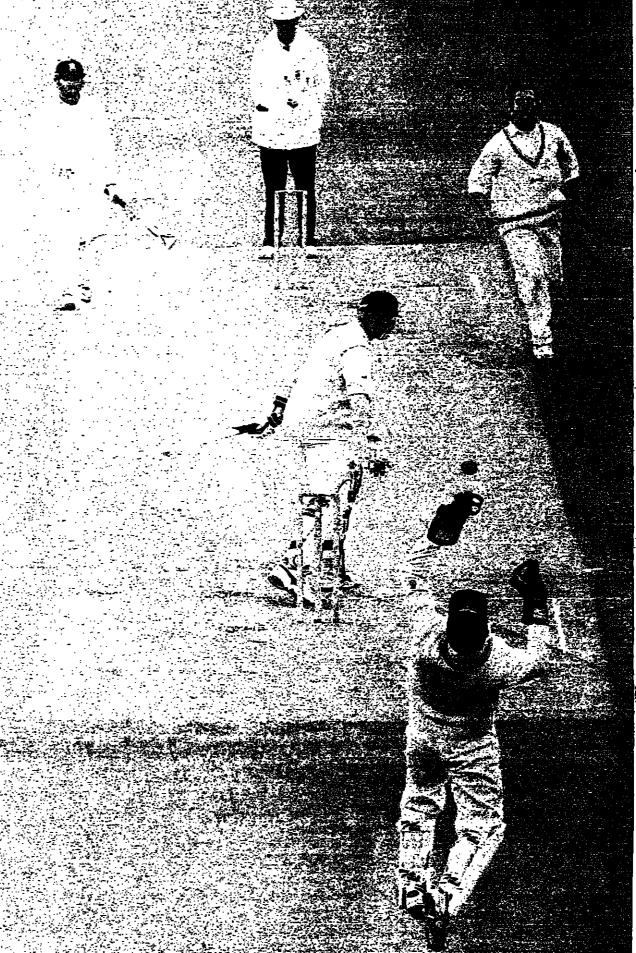
urgent, Leeds being virtually assured of at least fourth place. Moreover, they have generally acquitted themselves well against teams from the upper reaches. Bowyer. whose reception may buck the trend for booing returning favourites, believes they will stay up. The collision of Southamp-

ton, in 19th place, and Blackburn, in 18th, is practically a nine-pointer. After failing to win at home for the first time this year against Arsenal, Southampton continued their wretched away run with a further two defeats, all of which would make a Blackburn victory unthinkable. What better time, then, for Mark Hughes to break his scoring duck in his unlikely incarnation as a Saint than against a team managed by the Brians, Kidd and McClair?

Among the clubs wishing that both teams could lose at The Dell, Coventry take on Middlesbrough needing to shake off the languor of Sunday's defeat at Goodison Park. while the more fatalistic Evertonians are probably expecting their former idol, Duncan Ferguson, to come off the New castle bench and push them closer to the drop.

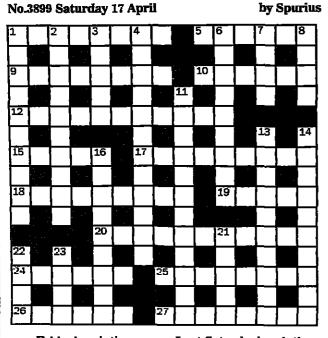
Meanwhile, Nottingham

Forest's demotion could well be confirmed even if they record an unlikely win over Tottenham. At the City Ground, as at Anfield, the minute's silence for the 96 who died after going to watch Forest play Liverpool at Hillsborough on the equivalent Saturday 10 years ago should be a poignant reminder of the difference between disappointment and disaster.



The Leicestershire wicketkeeper Paul Nixon tries to gather a ball from Matthew Brimson as Essex's Ashley Cowan looks on during the home side's defeat at Chelmsford yesterday Report, page 23; photograph: David Ashdown

THE SATURDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

Bodyguard comes in to supper after boxing exercises (5-3) Definition of party hard to find in a book (2,4) Saves lob spectacularly

and clears (8) Frantic mum takes 12 Has ten letters redirect-

ed - IOM, Cayman Is-lands etc (3,8) Backing for officer concealing appearance in court case (5)

Students in universities join together for common purpose rarely (9)
18 Outside broadcast on painter, including one

uestion put indirectly (9) World culture conserved by English Heritage, pri-20 Beating rivals in garden

shed construction? (11) Market in Egypt surrounded b 25 Pressman's on Irish stout

Deal possibly disclosed in trunk call? (6) Perfumes and dry wine about to be introduced by German community (8)

DOWN

1 Estate that's grown a lot

Sea (5,5) Mum conceals origins of young lad's passion for graceful girl (5) Acclaimed producer us

ing metric system? (4.8) Put in cells? (9) Oxygen and petroleum turned into mixture (4)

Everyone finding sandy shore to lack breadth (4) Those given awards

attesting to fairness by college? (6,6) Selfless peasant taking one in after extremely awful time (10)

One summer amongst the Ancient Greeks (10) Flavouring you have in

21 See topless stockings, not close-fitting (5)22 Capsizing in waterfall is a

23 A periodic check turned up something very small

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword. P.O. Box 4018. The Independent. It Canada Square. Canary Wharf. London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: W Marfar, Woolhope; J Wood, Huddersfield; I McLean, Hove; D Morris, Axminster, P Wood, Tredegar.

Bradley's licence suspended

GRAHAM BRADLEY, the jockey charged with conspiracy to cheat, will not be allowed to ride again until he has cleared his

The Jockey Club yesterday suspended the 38-year-old's licence and took steps to restrict his access to certain areas on racecourses. Bradley, who said he was "very disappointed and very surprised" at the decision, will receive income support out of the Jockey Club's administration fund to offset the riding fees he will forfeit. He will be paid at the rate of about £29,000 a year, which is the amount an injured jockey can claim from the Professional Riders' Insurance Scheme.

Bradley is accused of pulling" Man Mood, making the horse lose, when he was an odds-on shot in a two-horse

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON race at Warwick in November

1996. He was charged at Charing Cross police station in London on Monday and bailed the following day at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. Three Jockey Club stewards took the decision to suspend Bradley after interviewing the jockey at their Portman Square headquarters yesterday.

This is a sad day, but it is the Jockey Club's responsibility to preserve the integrity of racing," Christopher Spence, ready looked into the Man

stewards have not made a judgement on whether or not Graham Bradley is guilty of the charge laid against him, but have decided that in view of the nature and gravity of the charge it is inappopriate for a licensed jockey to continue

race riding. This is the same ruling the mandarins made after Jamie Osborne, Dean Gallagher and Leighton Aspell were investigated in an earlier part of racefixing allegations. All were subsequently cleared.

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the senior steward, said. "The Mood race and decided there was no case to answer. This, however, counted for nothing yesterday as far as Bradley was concerned.

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Section 1

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Bradley said: "I know that I'm totally innocent and I've done nothing wrong. I'm going to fight and fight for as long as it takes. I'm super confident that it will all be done as soon as possible.

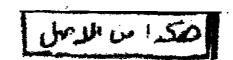
Peter McCormick, Bradley's solicitor, said the stewards had acted with "indecent haste". "We have a justice system in this country that is still the envy of many in that you are innocent until proven guilty," he said. "By witholding Mr Bradley's licence and taking away his livelihood the Jockey Club have acted as judge and

Racing, pages 26, 27

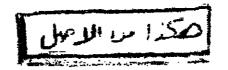
17 year old high jumper given clearance for take off.

The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in London and Orlando is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

BRITISH AIRWAYS







YOURMONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE • MOTORING • PROPERTY

COINING IT: PART FIVE OF OUR GUIDE TO **HOW TO GET RICH** INVESTING, PAGE 3

JEEPERS! IT'S THE **NEW GRAND** CHEROKEE

MOTORING, PAGE 8



INTO THE WOODS: BE A LANDOWNER FOR £14,000

PROPERTY, PAGE 9



Spinning a Web of lies

Share-rampers have hit the Internet. The question is: can they be stopped? By Teresa Hunter

ey were called the Praetorians, the big, bad wolves who threatened to destroy the American economy by hacking into Wall Street - before they were outsmarted by a lonely anorak in the form of Sandra Bullock.

THE IS DEPENDEN

All very crass. Or it should have been, if recent events hadn't exposed just how uncomfortably close to reality the fantasy of Bullock's sci-fi film The Net had brushed.

The risks of investing on the World Wide Web were finally brought home when private investors lost tens of thousands of pounds each after a hoaxer placed a bogus website on Yahoo Finance, a share-trading-tip notice board.

His bulletin leaked rumours of a takeover bid by the Israeli company ECI for the small Nasdaq-listed Pari-Gain Technologies of California.

Only there was no bid. But this didn't stop its share price rising sharply from \$8.5 to \$11.13 before falling back to \$9.38 dollars on the back of the euphoria. More than 14 million shares changed hands, compared with a normal two million daily trades.

Share prices have always moved on whisper and rumour, with bogus speculation catalytic to investment disasters from the South Sea Bubble to the 1929 Wall Street Crash. But concerns are mounting that the Internet may be particularly vulnerable to illegal shareramping operations, leaving the enthusiastic but guillible small investor

most badly burnt. Bloomberg's European managing director Lex Fenwick says: "This is the great joy but also the great danger of the Internet. It is so big that no one knows who is putting everything up or whether there is any truth in any of it. Anyone can make a website. That's what makes it so exciting, but so

very, very scary." Another industry insider, who does not wished to be named, goes much further: He says: "I suspect that what happened last week happens all the time. But on this occasion it got out of hand, the price rose higher than usual, people lost a lot of money and they got mad. That's why it became a story.

"But there are probably hundreds of smaller, similar stories going on all the time, which we never get to hear you'll be back in the red.



Sandra Bullock flushes out financial fraudsters in 'The Net' – but real life is not so simple

about. The truth is, we just don't know the scale of the deception, and anyone who says he does is a liar."

The temptation to spread unfounded rumours about a share is enormous. Pull it off and you can make a fortune as easily as printing money. You buy stock cheaply, post some hot gossip about a takeover or similar on a bulletin board, watch the share soar, sell high and pocket the difference.

Alternatively, if you bought some dud stock, and want to minimise your loss, spread some rumours in an Internet chat room, and if you're lucky the price will ease off its bottom, and

why companies would play this dan-function of any economy. gerous game. A predator might try to drive down the value of a company it wished to buy by spreading spurious scandal. Another in the doldrums

might try to rachet up its share price

by faking good news. Naturally, all these activities are iland there are tough laws in place to guarantee stable markets.

Barclays Stockbrokers managing director Tom Sheridan says: "It is in the vital interests of all governments to ensure that capital markets are open, honest, transparent and se-

But there are also strong reasons cure. This is an absolutely necessary

"History tells us that in any industry there are people who will try to get something for nothing. But if markets are well regulated, such people will not succeed for very long."

In the UK it is a criminal offence to give financial advice without proper legal throughout the Western world. authorisation, and the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, says it will pursue anyone offering unauthorised advice which is available to a UK Internet user, wherever in the world it emanates from.

But the reality is a little more complex. A spokesman for the FSA admits

that the nature of the Web means that enforcing the law is not always

straightforward.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of Internet share-information lines, the most reliable of which include well-known names like Bloombergs, Barclays, Charles Schwab. American Express, Dow Jones, Standard & Poors or the Financial Times.

Then there are the racier yet nevertheless reputable services like Motley Fool, at fool.com, a gossipy tipster with chat rooms which is very popular in the States. Scores of similar tip sheets can be accessed through normal search facilities like Jeeves Money or Yahoo Financial.

Finally there are volumes of dubious "hot tips" circulating from unknown sources, which are almost impossible to trace and substantiate.

The difficulty is separating the wheat from the chaff, as the PairGain Technologies episode proved. The hoaxer had deliberately constructed his website to look like a Bloomberg report, to achieve maximum impact.

Counterfeiting in this way has never been easier than with the Net. You simply pull up some pages, and download a design. Nothing could be simpler to then change the information contained and repost the page.

As the neurotic Bullock said in The Net: "It's all there just begging for someone to screw with. They've done it to me and they'll do it to you."

HOW TO BEAT THE INTERNET CHEAT

- Never buy off an Internet tip any more than you would act on something you overheard in the pub.
- Never act on one source of information alone. Always get confirmation elsewhere.
- Study the website address carefully. A hoazer may counterfeit a page, but only Bloomberg can use its website address. Check with the organisation behind the address whether a page with its name is bogus or not.
- Check any contact telephone numbers.
- Always deal through reputable organisations.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK



Property of the week

This two-bedroom house in the village of Benson, 12 miles from Oxford, was built before the car impinged on property design. There is no vehicle access to the edge of the cottage; instead a public path runs along the front, dividing the house from its garden... which, by way of a bonus, includes an air-raid shelter built snugly for two.

Simply and sympathetically restored, it has a good fitted kitchen, a dining room and a 14ft sitting room with an exposed stone wall, an open fireplace, shelving and a wine store. The garden also has a large summerhouse with a 13ft sitting room, a utility room and a loo. If it came with a garage, it would cost around £30,000 more than it does. But public parking is only 50 yards away at the end of the path. The guide price is £160,000. For details call Maliams on 01865 311909. ROSALIND RUSSELL



Car of the week Under normal circumstances there would not be much

to recommend a Vauxhall Monterey. It was a pretty undistinguished off-road vehicle, and this model has now been discontinued. This was perhaps surprising, because the Monterey was nothing more than a rebadged Isuzu Trooper, itself a highly regarded 4x4.

Essentially a Monterey is as roomy and tough as a Trooper, but the lack of image has meant rapid depreciation. It is not a shock, then, to find an unsold delivery-mileage example at Marshalls (01473 240200) on offer at £18,995 a saving of £8,000 on the showroom price. Tempted? Well, the V6 engine's thirst for fuel, at around 20mpg, might put you off, and expect even more depreciation over the next few years. JAMES RUPPERT

Liverpool Victoria

The benefits are mutual

Deal of the week

There will always be an insurer prepared to grab custom by offering cheap home insurance deals - but seldom as cheap as Liverpool Victoria. Take this example: a two-storey terrace property in

north London, on which virtually every single telephone-based insurer (Direct Line, Churchill, CGU Direct, Eagle Star Direct) all quoted between £312 and £390 for a rebuilding cost of £138,000. Liverpool Victoria, however, quoted £148. This, by the way, includes accidental damage. The downside is that two years down the line Liverpool Vic might not be so cheap. Meantime, you've saved more than 300 quid.

NIC CICUTTI

Big lenders refuse to play ball on rate cuts

Homeowners' hopes for lower mortgage payments have been dealt a harsh blow. By Paul Slade

the 0.25 per cent cut in base rates by the Bank of England would be reflected in a similar reduction on their home loans faced disappointment this week, as the UK's biggest lenders refused to play ball.

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Although Halifax, Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, NatWest and Northern Rock announced that they were trimming their variable rates by between 0.1 and 0.14 per cent - less than the base-rate cut the previous week - they warned that in future borrowers would have to take a back seat to lenders.

Paul Duffin, general manager for mortgages and savings at the Halifax, says: "Our view is that there might be one more cut in base rate to go - down to, say, 5 per cent. As you get down to the bottom, it's a question of striking a balance between the demands of

MILLIONS OF borrowers hoping that both borrowers and savers. We're down to rates now that we haven't seen for a long, long time." Lorna Waddell, an Abbey National

spokeswoman, adds: "We haven't said categorically whether we will or will not lower rates any further. But our savers outnumber our borrowers by seven to one, and their needs will be at the top of our mind from now on." At the C&G's, a spokeswoman says:

"Savers are getting concerned about the continued cuts. Borrowers have benefited, and they may well now see savers being looked after more than in the past. We would certainly concur with the Halifax and Abbey National."

Other big lenders, including Bradford & Bingley, have yet to decide whether to pass on any or all of the base-rate cut to their borrowers. Nationwide said this week that it will not drop its rate.

executive at Virgin Direct, which reduced its variable rate by the full 0.25 per cent, argues that the big lenders' argument is flawed: "A taxpayer would need over £6,000 in a deposit account to lose out by just £1 a month as a re-

sult of a 0.25 per cent cut in rates. "Yet if they are paying interest on a mortgage of £50,000 at the same time, they stand to lose out on a potential reduction of £10.41 if the rate cut is not

Some smaller lenders, such as Skipton Building Society, are also taking a different line - at least with a few specialist products.

Skipton has pledged that its Base Rate Tracker Mortgage will continue to fall as long as cuts in base rates continue. The Tracker loan, relaunched last week, now guarantees a rate of no more than 1.25 per cent above base

However, Rowan Gormley, chief rate. currently standing at 5.25 per variable rate after the latest base-rate cent, with a further 1.25 per cent discount for the first 12 months.

Mark Smitheringale, the society's head of communications, says: "Every reduction in the bank base rate will be followed by ourselves on that particular product".

But Paul Duffin at the Halifax warns that borrowers in Skipton's Tracker will suffer if base rates should climb back to anything like their late-Eighties peak of over 15 per cent. They may benefit when base rates are low, he suggests, but should expect no relief from the pain when base rates climb again.

He adds: "When base rates have ne very high before, mortgages didn't follow them all the way up. We

protected borrowers against that." Skipton has yet to announce what will happen to its own standard

cut, but Mr Smitheringale says it is "almost certain" that its current variable of 6.89 per cent will be reduced. "Savers are being penalised. I think there comes a time when we have to

try and maintain savers' rates to try and give people some kind of reasonable return from investing in building societies," he says. Despite fears of falling rates for savers, the C&G's spokeswoman savs:

"We haven't moved any of our savings rates yet. We haven't decided whether we're going to make any reductions on them at all yet or whether we're just going to leave them be." Mr Duffin says: "There will be a re-

duction for [Halifax] savers, but because we've only had a small cut on the borrowers' side, at least that allows us to moderate it. We'll be announcing that before the end of the month."

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monthly repayments. Yet, after a weekend of debate and discussion, a handful of the biggest lenders, making up perhaps 45 per cent of the market, have decided to shave their rates - by just 0.1 per cent on average.

Even more worrying are the increasingly loud assertions by lenders that, after several months of reductions, we appear to have come to the end of the line for mortgage-rate cuts.

"We must concentrate on the rates paid to savers, since they outnumber our borrowers by a ratio of up to seven-to-one," is the message now coming from the likes of Abbey National, Halifax, Cheltenham & Gloucester and the rest.

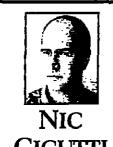
I would be far more prepared to believe this argument were it not for the fact that the seven-to-one argument is flawed.

A very large proportion of these accounts, several of which may be held by one saver, are effectively dormant, with no more than a few hundred pounds in them. The interest paid, of a few pounds a year at best, barely matters to typical savers in the grand scheme of things.

For example, £2,000 on which interest of 5 per cent gross is paid, would earn £80 a year after tax. Reducing the interest paid by 0.25 per cent produces a drop of £4 in annual income. Are we really expected to believe that millions of people would be prepared to drop a £120 annual cut on a typical £60.000 home loan for the sake of an extra £4 in their savings account?

Moreover, a number of banks and building societies have reduced their rates to many savers by more than the base-rate cuts made by the Bank of England since October last year.

In other words, some institutions are taking advantage of the nearcontinuous reductions in the



CICUTTI

Some institutions are taking advantage of base-rate cuts to bolster their profits

past six months to bolster their profit margins at the expense of savers initially. and now of borrowers too. Their behaviour stinks.

SAY WHAT you like about the Inland Revenue, but its staff do have a sense of humour. In March this year I finally paid my bill for the tax year 1997/98. But I was eight days over the final deadline by which a payment was needed to avoid a surcharge of 5 per cent on the total amount owed.

Therefore, in addition to about £75 in unpaid interest from 31 January, the Revenue also billed me an additional £250. A trifle

unfair, I thought. So I appealed - on the grounds that I was so griefstricken by the illness and subsequent death of my pet hamster, Snowy, in February that I was unable to think

clearly and settle on time. Today the reply from the Revenue's customer services manager (who would probably prefer to remain anonymous): "I am not prepared to accept your appeal despite the obvious and genuine trauma that this tragic event has caused.

"I know how upsetting it can be when a pet hamster 'falls asleep at the wheel' but would advise you that this outstanding amount should be paid now. My instincts as a pet lover tell me that Snowy would not like you to increase your indebtedness to the Inland Revenue

because of his death." Following such a genuinely sympathetic reply, will I pay up now or take my appeal to a higher stage? Watch this space.

A woman with six appeal FINANCIAL MAKEOVED

osie is a mature student who is set to finish college in June this year, when she will return to work. Aside from the challenges of taking up the reins of fulltime employment again, she has six immediate financial problems which need to be resolved.

Among them is the fact that while studying she has not paid national insurance contributions for the past vear. Should she start paying now?

Her endowment provider, Eagle Star, has warned her that her policy may not be worth enough at maturity to pay off her mortgage. Should she top up her endowment or take out a new mortgage to reduce other payments? Finally. Rosie had a pension in the past, but she has none at present. Should she start one now?

The adviser: Philippa Gee, the managing director of Gee & Company, a fee-based independent financial advisers, at Foresters Hall, 1a Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UT (01743 236982)

The advice: With a few months of studying left, you have time to move your financial affairs on to a firmer foundation. However, you need a financial plan.

The first of six objectives is to organise your banking arrangements. Being self-employed, it is easy to get into the habit of operating one account for all expenses, yet it makes it hard to differentiate between what money should be reserved for business and what can be withdrawn for personal expenses.

You need to set up two accounts, one for business that will hold the majority of money and will transfer a fixed sum each month into a second. personal account

The second objective again concerns cash, as you need to build up a float fund in case of emergencies. This should be done by taking sums occasionally out of the first account, as the business improves. I would recommend you open a

new "mini-ISA" account for the cash element to take these one-off sums. Basically, the mini-ISA allows you to invest up to £3,000 in this tax year (and £1,000 each year thereafter) into a cash account, with no tax payable on the interest.



Rosie Cate: a design consultant with a six-point plan from a financial consultant Neville Elder

Rates available from the Halifax and Abbey National are currently 6.5 per cent (variable) and appear the most competitive. Not only will you be benefiting from a decent interest rate, but with no tax liability, your money remains accessible.

The third objective is to sort out your borrowings.

Presently your mortgage amounts to around £300 a month. Rather than remortgage, which can be costly, I would suggest making use of a deal, through your current lender, for existing borrowers who are on ing which scheme to opt for.

variable rates and who face no penalties for switching.

One scheme is a capped rate of -6.4 per cent, which puts a ceiling on your costs until April 2004. This has no arrangement fee and will currently save you around £30 a month. Another scheme offers a capped rate of 4.25 per cent until January 2001, saving around £110 a month. However, this costs £295 and will keep you locked into the variable scheme for five years. Consider how long you will keep the property before decid-

You are concerned that the endowment policy might not repay the mortgage on maturity. Profit bonus rates have reduced considerably and the recent performance of your contract has not been competitive. However with your income limited at present and the policy having 17 years left I would say sit tight.

Invest a monthly amount separately as a back-up to the endowment only when your income improves.

equities are not short-term investments and will fluctuate. The beststarting point for you could be a large ... tracker fund, which follows movements in UK share prices and which has consistent past performance, such as that offered by Gartmore.

- Control

The fourth objective is to ensure you have adequate personal insurance. You have do not appear to have adequate life cover for the mortgage." and although you have no dependents, you should still plug this gap.

Monthly costs for £7,000 term assurance over a 19-year period start at £5 per month. You already have income replacement cover in place for up to £500 per month, but will soon need higher levels of cover.

Your fourth objective is to contact the existing company to see if it will offer you "preferred rates" as a loyal customer, as to go elsewhere would cost approximately £50 per month. Critical illness cover, which would only pay out a lump sum in the event of a major illness, subject to policy conditions, should be considered. One such policy offered by Marks & Spencers would cost around £35 per month for £100,000 cover over a 20 year term.

Protection policies can be costly. However the business relies on you, and just as you would insure your car. you need to insure yourself. I would defer decisions until you finish studying, to identify better the level of income the business produces. I would suggest you build up the income replacement cover first and then consider other options.

The fifth objective is pension planning. You already have pension provision from previous employment. You want to give the business at least 12 months to see how it develops. If during the year you have saved well, you could use part of the savings to invest into a pension as a single sum to make up for the time you have not been paying in. If your business develops, it could itself be viewed as part of your retirement funds for you to sell on at a later date.

The sixth and final objective involves working closely with others advising you: talk to your accountant about your concerns over National Insurance, appoint an IFA and discuss business contracts with a solicitor, and write a will. With a sound finan-For this purpose, you could consider an equity-linked mini-ISA, alan MA qualification, you can conthough you need to remember that centrate on your career.

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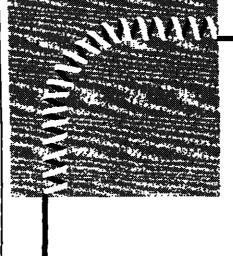
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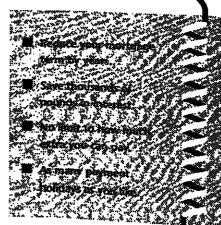
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Company of the second

eal Small business? Think big

Venture capital trusts allow you to make the most of new businesses. By Rachel Fixsen

utting money into small businesses is notoriously risky, but those who have dared have sometimes made staggering returns. The trouble is, how can you pick the winners and avoid those destined to sink without trace? Investing in a venture capital trust

(VCT) is one way to leave the decisions to the experts. VCTs were introduced four years ago as a way of providing capital finance for small expanding companies. Like investment trusts, they are quoted companies and investors participate by buying shares in them.

Each VCT invests in a number of smaller companies - mostly existing companies or management buyouts. and some early stage companies. Some may include companies quoted on the alternative investment market (AIM), the "junior" stock exchange.

VCTs are high-risk, but the risk is spread. "The diversity of 20 or 30 unquoted companies severely limits the risk," says David Thorp of the British Venture Capital Association. Inland Revenue conditions state that no VCT holding in any company may represent more than 15 per cent of its investments

Another safeguard is that the London Stock Exchange has to approve every VCT prospectus, so only the experienced can launch funds.

VCTs carry amazing tax perks Personal Equity Plans and Individual Savings Accounts may keep your investments free of tax, but the taxman actually pays you to invest in VCTs.

You can invest up to £100,000 each tax year in VCTs and you get tax relief of 20 per cent on your original investment. This means someone investing £10,000 will receive £2,000 in tax relief. A condition of this is that, unless the investor dies, the investment must be held for at least five years. If the shares are sold earlier then the relief must be repaid.

There is no tax to pay on any income paid out by VCTs to shareholders, and no restriction on how much income can be paid out. There is also no capital gains tax to pay on any gains made on the sale of shares. Arguably the best tax advantage is

that anyone with capital gains in the 12 months before or after the shares are issued in a VCT can roll this gain over into a VCT. If they do, then they can defer any capital gains tax payable, and with careful tax planning may be able to avoid it altogether.

This ability to defer capital gains means that 40 per cent of your infree loan from the government.



VCTs invest in a range of small companies, including those running golf clubs

means the investor may only have to stump up 40 per cent of the value of the investment.

"If you're only putting in 40 per cent. that does wonders for your rate of return - the VCT would only have to perform in a mediocre way to give a good overall return," says Martin Churchill of independent performance analysts the Allenbridge Group.

Tax breaks aside, is the underlying investment a good one? After all, if you lose money you don't get tax-deductible losses, says Mr Churchill. Willie Stewart, a father of four who lives in Edinburgh, has invested twice in Northern Venture Trust and is confident that his investment will ing investments in small unquoted companies in the trust become quot- listed on AIM.

This, coupled with the tax relief, companies, but saw the Northern Venture Trust as a better option.

He says: "It's difficult to find good unquoted companies unless you put a fantastic amount of time and effort in." A VCT allows you to spread the risk of investing in unquoted companies while having experts source and manage the deals, he says.

So far, the investment success of VCTs is hard to gauge because there is very little market for VCT shares once issued. No one wants to lose the tax relief so they hardly ever sell in the first five years, which means the

shares barely move. Anyway, VCTs are definitely longthe trust to become fully invested. The when the shares of the

ed, there will be big profits, says Andrew Jones of independent financial advisers the David Aaron Partnership.

So how do you pick a VCT? Because tax relief is only available if you invest in a VCT by subscribing for new shares, it only makes sense to buy shares at a new offering. Find out which VCTs are open for new investment. Try the BVCA or see Allenbridge's website (see contacts below).

"You have to read the prospectus carefully and look at the experience of the manager concerned," says Andrew Jones. "Some of the managers do have quite long track records."

VCTs now tend to fall into two term investments. It takes years for categories - the generalists, which invest in unquoted companies, and the

"I think the generalist ones are preferable to AIM, as I believe there is more scope for high rates of return," says Mr Churchill. "Most venture capitalists look to the AIM market as an exit point rather than an investment entry point. They can also do more in-depth due diligence on an unquoted company and be represented on the board," he says.

Look at the size of the VCT and the charges it makes. Some argue that a smaller VCT will not be able to buy enough holdings to spread its risk adequately. Charges are higher than for conventional investment trusts because of the large amount of work each investment involves.

"Deal flow" is important too. This is the rate at which the manager has closed investment deals. Managers have to have 70 per cent of funds invested in qualifying companies within three years of launch, and if they are too slow, they might have to rush into poorer investments later on.

Of those VCTs currently being offered, Mr Jones recommends Matrix TriVen. It will be the largest VCT yet, and it will be looking to raise £60 million to invest in three different areas, each with a separate manager.

To share in the growth potential of the technology sector, Mr Jones points to the British Smaller Technology Companies VCT run by Yorkshire Fund Managers.

Allenbridge publishes Tax Shelter Report which rates VCTs according to a number of factors. Of the general VCTs still open to investment, Baronsmead VCT 2 gets the highest rating, followed by Quester VCT 2 and Northern 2.

Anyone investing in a VCT must understand the risks involved, and should not simply see them as the next investment after a PEP or ISA, advisers say. However, there is no reason why VCTs should only attract the truly rich. "A younger person who's willing to invest for the longer-term could do very well indeed," says Mr Jones. Typically, a minimum investment could be £2,000 to £3,000 he says.

British Venture Capital Association has a list of VCTs seeking funds: 0171 240 3846; David Aaron Partnership publishes a guide to VCTs: 01908 281 544: Allenbridge Group: 0171 409 1111 or: www.tax-shelter-report.co.uk

The Independent' is offering a free Guide to High Risk/High Reward Investment, outlining the commonest ways savers can get higher-thanaverage returns, including venture capital trusts. The guide, sponsored able by calling 0845 2711003

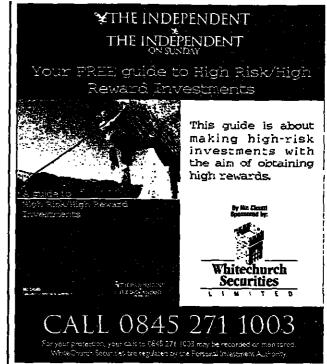
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MUTUAL ONE is a company consisting of eight Midlands-based building societies, which have combined to launch a new three-year "stepped discount" mortgage.

This deal gives a 3 per cent discount on each society's own variable-rate mortgage in year one, a 2 per cent discount in the second year and I per cent in the final year. At present variable

rates, the cost of a loan, available up to 80 per cent of a property's value, is up to 3.94 per cent in year one. Because some societies' rates are lower, the amount payable in the first year could be less. There are no compulsory

insurances. The deal is available exclusively through FirstMortgage Direct. A £295 arrangement fee is payable. Call 0800 080020.



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STOCKBROKER Charles Stanley has revamped its online share trading website, Xest, allowing

clients to buy and sell gilts and

equities online. Xest now also offers more background information and analysis. You may register online but you are required to have Crestsponsored membership and money

on deposit before you deal.

Xest's trading facility is not yet automatic - you send buy and sell orders to the dealing room at Charles Stanley via secure e-mail. However, the company is developing a direct link to the stock market's Retail Service Providers and expects to have its own automatic electronic trading service available for clients before the end of the year. In the meantime, the trading service is comparable in speed to telephone-

based share dealing. Before the electronic facility is up and running, Xest will have

other add-ons available. Within the next couple of weeks, the broker says, statements and portfolio valuations will be available online. Other developments on the way include an online Individual Savings Account and the facility to

trade on European markets. Xest's basic dealing charge is a flat £20 fee for trades up to £50,000 but the European service, when available, will likely be more costly.

The group of stockbrokers offering internet share-dealing facilities will shortly be joined by what was originally the UK's first independent stockbroker on the internet. Leeds-based Redmayne-Bentley. The broker's new website is offering £1,000 worth of free shares to be won to celebrate the launch of REDM, its online sharedealing service.

All you have to do is pre-register with REDM by completing an application form. You will then be notified by e-mail when the



INVESTOR ROBIN AMLÔT

broking service is operational. A prize draw entry form will be e-mailed to you asking a simple multiple-choice question about the FTSE 100, and the winner will be the first correct entry selected at

random on 31 July 1999. REDM says it will offer a free company news and share price service to all those people who

have pre-registered and, once the service is up and running, you may establish an online trading account in return for a quarterly subscription fee of £15.

Anybody setting up a trading account before 30 June 1999 will also be eligible to enter the REDM prize draw. The £1,000 worth of free shares will be in a FTSE 100 company of the winner's choice.

A new site has been established

for online investors seeking relevant information sources and annotated links on investing in UK quoted shares. UK Online Investing, from EMAR Publishers, aims to guide you to relevant web sites telling you how to do your own research, prepare your own stock analyses, select and monitor your own UK quoted investments

and act as your own broker. The site also promises to provide an online investing report which will be updated regularly and downloaded to subscribers as an electronic newsletter. Unfortunately, when I viewed the site it kept crashing, offering software error messages. Once these bugs have been ironed out it should be a useful additional information source for anybody

investing via the internet. Steven Dotsch, the founder and managing director of EMAR Publishers, claims that his website will "assist in untangling the financial web". He adds: "The Web has a vast

array of investment resources for the investor, and most of them are free or relatively inexpensive. The problem is that they are scattered and often difficult to find."

Xest: www.xest.com Redmayne-Bentley Stockbrokers: www.redm.co.uk UK Online Investing: www.ukonlineinvesting.com Robin can be reached at RobinAmlot@aol.com

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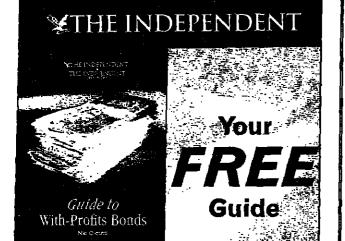
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ISA lolly not always sweet

TESSA FEVER may already be a fading memory, but savers should be queuing to open a cash ISA rather then leave money in a lowpaying deposit account.

The cash ISA has effectively replaced the Tessa, although savers cannot keep quite so much from the taxman. The Chancellor is allowing savers to put up to £3,000 in a cash ISA this tax year but only £1,000 in subsequent years.

The cash ISA is the first new product in years from National Savings - the Government bank - but its interest rate of 5.75 per cent on £10 does not match offerings from banks and building societies.

In fact, loyal customers of financial institutions are being offered the best deals. Anyone who has been with the Coventry Building Society for at least five years, for instance, can balance of just £1. And it guarantees to pay 1 per cent over the bank base rate for two years on its Privilege ISA.

Newer customers however, are offered the much less attractive Square Deal ISA, which pays just 5 per cent.

Others are playing the same loyalty card. Nationwide's Members ISA Bond is offering a similar guarantee to the Coventry and is paying 6.5 per cent at present. But anyone who hasn't been with the Nationwide for three years will have to settle for the standard ISA with the 1 per cent-over-base guarantee lasting until October.

Other providers are paying bonuses. Abbey National and Safeway, for instance, are offering a 0.5 per cent bonus payable in January while the Yorkshire building society is paying out a 0.5 per cent bonus in October.

But such offers are competitors, as the bonuses may simply be designed to help catapult the companies to the top of the best-buy tables, in order to attract new customers in the first

crucial months of the ISA. "We understand that people's needs change and so products which come with 'golden handcuffs' may not offer best value." says Chris Cummings, of Sun Bank, "In fact we believe these golden handcuff bonuses are against the spirit, if not the letter, of CAT standards."

The CAT standard likely to crop up often with ISAs stands for charges, access and terms. "The CAT provides a benchmark for investors. They will be able to tell that their ISA has reached certain standards," says David

Outhwaite. of NatWest. Instant accessibility means ISAs offer more fiexibility than Tessas, where cash had to be locked away for five years. However, many ISAs are demanding 30 days notice or allowing just one or two withdrawals a year.

Some product providers are refusing to issue an ISA. Sainsbury's Bank, for instance, says they are too complicated.

When you throw CAT standards into the mix, the picture becomes even less clear as they may make ISAs less competitive.

If you are planning to have an investment ISA as well, it may be tempting simply to take the cash element offered. This could, however, be a mistake, according to Jenni Stott, of Marks & Spencer Financial Services. "Many high street names and fund managers may offer a cash ISA to lure savers without a competitive rate of interest," she warns. SIMON READ

You can compare ISAs on the Internet at www.moneyextra.com - a free independent personal

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APR - Annualised percentage rate

MP - Mortgage indemnity premium

N - Immoductory rate for a limited period

B - Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System

F - Foed rate (all other rates variable)

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N - Net rate

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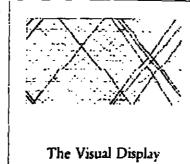
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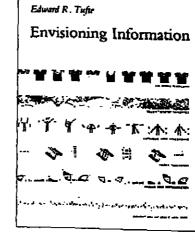
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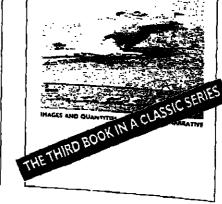


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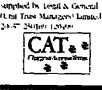
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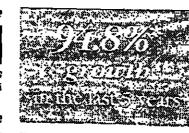
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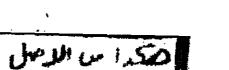
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Class: have you got it?

Management of investment 'classes' is the key to a lucrative with-profits fund. By Nic Cicutti

pects it to provide a mixture of decent returns on their cash. coupled with a rela-■tively high degree of security to ensure that their money

doesn't go down the tubes The exact mechanism that delivers this combination of some safety with out-performance when compared to a building society account is usually a mystery to most investors.

In fact, the way with-profits fund managers achieve this is by means of quite tightly defined asset allocation between different types of investment "class". The main types are equities, property, fixed interest securities such as bonds or gilts, and cash.

How do these various asset classes work in relation to each other? Martin Brown, operations director at the With-Profits Bond Shop, which specialises in these policies, explains: The starting point is that equities have a tendency to out-perform other asset classes over the long term. In effect, they are there to provide the growth in the value of a bond. At the same time, there will also be a requirement for a relatively stable

"Until recently, yields from equities could have provided some of this, but they have fallen significantly of late. which partly determines the extent to which a with-profits fund might invest in fixed-interest securities."

Michael Hayden, savings and investment director at Legal & General, a leading with-profits bond provider, adds: "Fixed interest securities will provide an income stream combined

with security. will get your money back, always assuming that the company whose bond it is stays around."

securities, delivering its own minor yield within a fund.

Property is another important asset class, says Mr Hayden. "It is a mix of the two classes in risk terms." he says. "Primarily it involves investment in commercial properties. The income stream from the property rental provides an element of security and hopefully the increase in the value of the property over time will provide additional capital returns."

Given that there is an interrelationship between these three main asset classes, in what proportion are they held, and why?

shows that generally equity holdings

nyone investing in a will vary between 60 and 70 per cent. with-profits fund ex- with one or two exceptions. Property will vary between 10 and 12 per cent, on average, while fixed interest holdings range between 17 and 25 per cent. again on average.

What determines this mix, says Mr Hayden, is a combination of factors. One of them is whatever guarantee may have been given to the investors by the with-profits bond provider. The greater the guarantee, the more likely that company's fund manager will be required to meet it by investing in fixed-interest securities.

"We invest in assets that match our liabilities. Their nature will determine the investment strategy," he adds. "For example, if we were giving investors a certain guarantee, say of 5 per cent yield, we would invest in a greater proportion of fixed interest securities. So to some extent we are driven by investor expectations,"

Aside from investors' own needs, requirements by Government regulators that a with-profits fund has enough assets to cover its own liabilities and policyholders' reasonable expectations will also determine the proportion of each asset class.

Generally, a fund with a high level of "free assets", over and above those required to meet the criteria set by regulators, will be able to invest more highly in equities.

For example, as Chris Robinson, intermediary sales director at Prudential - whose Prudence fund has sold some £7bn since its launch in 1991 - says: "Our ratio is about 60 per cent in UK equities and 15.4 per cent in international ones, with 13 per cent in property and 10.1 per cent in fixed interest securities.

"We are able to invest in this way "If you hold a bond to maturity you because we have a higher proportion of free assets than many other funds. The point to remember is that withprofits bonds are a smoothed managed Cash is a similar type of holding to fund. Capital growth comes from the equity element of the fund. Distribution bonds are more geared to income and they will contain a different mixture of fixed interest securities relative to equities."

How are various asset classes determined on a day-by-day basis? Michael Hayden says: "The actuaries set the guidelines. They know what the liabilities of a fund will be and they will construct a portfolio to reflect that. An actuary might say we need a core of perhaps 25 per cent in fixed interest securities, or 15 per cent in property on the basis of, perhaps, plus or minus five. The fund manager will then man-A glance at the table on this page age the fund on that basis.

"In practice, it is not just a question



Commercial property is a significant part of with-profits fund management

bond must be of not less than A-plus are being met. quality (which would mean a high-

quality security)." All of Legal & General's fund managers will be involved in the investment process, selecting equity or securities on the basis of the actuar-

ies' recommendations. Reviews of the portfolio will be

of setting parameters for an asset held monthly to determine whether homework - and asset allocation is one class. An actuary may specify that a the expectations of the policyholders part of that equation.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Money Market

charged brigade

WHEN IS a mortgage indemnity premium (MIP) not a mortgage indemnity premium? This is the question being asked by hundreds of thousands of would-be borrowers, who face a new variant of this hidden charge. levied on those who need to borrow a relatively high proportion of a home's value.

Experts are warning this week that some lenders including Bradford & Bingley have found other ways of charging extra for people who want to borrow high amounts.

MIPs typically require the borrower to pay up to £1,500 to indemnify the lender against a fall in house prices should the property be repossessed. However, they offer no protection to borrowers

Indeed, while lenders use the premium to insure their security against a house price fall, their insurers are still free to pursue borrowers for a chunk of the price drop.

Following a campaign mounted by consumer groups, Halifax said in February last year it would charge no MIP where the loan was 90 per cent or less of a nome's value. Other lenders have since followed that lead. But most still insist on a MIP for loans over 90 per cent.

Meanwhile, mortgage experts are now questioning whether consumers are really much better off even though MIPs have been abolished. Ray Boulger, of the specialist mortgage brokers John Charcol, says: "Some lenders are effectively just charging a higher rate instead of the premium. What they give with one hand can be taken away with another."

Last year, Bradford & Bingley, the building society facing a vote to convert it to a bank, scrapped its own version of the MIP for all loans. Instead of demanding a MIP from borrowers, it is imposing risk "loadings" - an extra 0.25 to 0.5 per cent on its rates.

Analysis carried out by MoneyFacts, a guide to investment and mortgage rates, shows that, in some cases, borrowers may end up

paying as much for the riskloading as they did for the MIP.

A borrower taking out a £95,000 mortgage with B&B, on a property worth £100,000. would in the past have paid a MIP at 8.6 per cent of the value of the loan. But that MIP only applied to a fraction of the loan (the amount between £75,000 and £95,000). In this case, the cost would be 8.6 per cent of £20,000, or £1,720.

Now, they will instead pay a "risk loading" of 0.5 per cent. for the first five years, on the whole loan. Rather than paying £1,720, this borrower would pay £2,375 over five years.

Ironically, B&B's changes can mean that when the risk of negative equity is lower, the new system looks even worse. A loan of £85,000 on a £100,000 house would give rise to a MIP costing £500 on the old MIP system. On the new system, an extra 0.25 points will be added to the rates for the whole loan. The cost in extra interest is £1,062.50 - more than double the old amount.

B&B points out that in the past most borrowers, unable to pay a lump sum for the MIP when they bought the house, added it to the loan. This meant the final was higher. It also says the MoneyFacts comparison is flawed because risk loading could also be imposed in the past.

The situation can be even worse for people who borrow more than 90 per cent of the property value. The abolition of MIPs on loans up to 90 per cent creates a nasty quirk which acts as a strong disincentive to borrow more.

A buyer of a £100,000 property would pay very heavily for borrowing £91,000, rather than £90,000. On a fiveyear fixed-rate deal with the Alliance & Leicester, the borrower not only pays a higher rate (6.25 rather than 5.95 per cent - an extra £1,300) - over the first five years. The borrower also pays a MIP, not just on the extra £1,000 borrowed, but on everything over 75 per cent (£1,200 in this case). The total cost of borrowing that extra £1,000? More than £2,500.

ANDREW VERITY

Plight of the Time to play equity card

حكدا من الأجل

Cashing in on the value of your home can lead to a happy old age. But take care. By James Moore

income-poor. This is the fate of an increasing number of elderly people who reach retirement age as owners of substantial homes. However, at the same time, inadequate financial planning, or some other mishap, means that they have very little money to live on.

Using the equity in your home to raise cash is one traditional method of boosting income. However, the National Consumer Council (NCC) last week warned that serious gaps in financial regulation could lead to disaster for vulnerable pensioners who try this tactic.

Equity-release plans, as they are known, involve taking a mortgage out on a home to provide an income or cash, usually to make life more comfortable for retired people.

In the late Eighties, plans linked to risky investments backfired disastrously, leading to situations in which many people faced the prospect of losing their homes.

Such plans are now banned. In the past year or so, some financial companies have become increasingly interested in marketing equity release, with household names such as Norwich Union and Northern Rock entering the fray. Yet plans currently on the market are complicated and require expert financial and legal advice.

In any event, the NCC, which was set up and largely funded by the Government, says the rules governing today's "safe" equityrelease plans remain flawed.

The NCC says equity release could provide real benefits for elderly people. But it identifies a range of bodies and laws covering the plans and says this gives consumers "the worst of all worlds - partial regulation which restricts availability and hinders innovation without providing proper protection in return".

Indeed, the type of plan that the NCC report identifies as "offering perhaps the most certainty of all the schemes the decision of available" has been killed off by Chancellor Gordon Brown's to axe mortgage interest relief (Miras).

These plans involved elderly people taking mortgages out to buy a small life annuity which paid the interest and provided a small income. An alternative scheme in-



Old people must make sure they are not taken for a ride

return for an annuity or a lump sum. The company operating the plan

expects to make its money when the home is sold outright, either on death or upon entry into residential care. Providers include Stalwart Assurance, Carlisle Life, Home & Capital and BPT Home Reversions. Another type of plan involves

taking out a fixed-rate mortgage on a percentage of the value of a home. The interest rolls up and both the capital and the interest are, once more, paid off when the house is finally sold outright.

Both Norwich Union, with its Capital Access Plan, and Northern Rock, with its Home Equity Release Mortgage, offer variations on this theme, but while Northern Rock charges interest on the loan at 7.29 per cent, NU charges interest on the volves signing away part or all of a entire value of the home at 2.95 per

Finally, shared appreciation mortgages, available from the Bank of Scotland and Barclays, offer an interest-free loan of up to 25 per cent of a house's value.

In return, up to three-quarters of any increase in the home's value is taken by the loan provider when the loan is repaid.

Unfortunately these schemes, currently unavailable, are generally offered for a limited period and so far, unlike the other schemes, none have yet contained provisions to enable people to move house.

There are a number of variations on these themes, including schemes specifically set up to fund home improvements or even care costs. and those run by local authorities and by charities.

Unlike some of the Eighties plans, most of the modern equity-release home to an insurance company, in cent, making comparisons difficult. schemes carry guarantees which Ed Maynard

should mean that, whatever happens, people who take them out should not lose their homes and can

continue to live in them for the rest of their lives. Regulatory problems crop up because, depending on how plans are set up, they can be governed by statutory bodies, such as the Financial Services Authority, or voluntary ones, such as the Council of Mortgage Lenders' code of practice. In some cases, the plans are monitored by the Safe Home Income Plans group (Ship), an industry

trade association, leading to the problems that are identified by the NCC report. The NCC also warns that, by exploiting gaps in this system, companies could stili market products that might leave elderly people in se-

vere difficulties. They could be stuck

their homes if things go wrong. Even "safe" products could have a nasty sting in the tail if they are taken out by someone for whom they are not suitable. Tax rates and Government benefits can be affected by any increase in income, or even the

provision of a lump sum. Benefits such as pensioners' income support and council tax benefit can be hit by any extra income or even lump sums. Moving from non-tax-paying to tax-paying status, or going up a tax band, can also eat into any gains made by buying into

an equity-release scheme. Age Concern spokeswoman Rhian Beynon says: "We have never endorsed any such plan. They may be suitable for some people but not for others.

"We offer a fact sheet explaining about them. People need to be very careful that any income generated does not affect any existing benefit they are entitled to."

Sue Mercer, the office and technical manager at Hinton & Wild, an independent financial advice firm specialising in equity-release schemes, says: "The best plan depends on a person's circumstances but it is important to make sure you are significantly better off before going ahead."

It seems unlikely that the type of disaster which befell people in the late Eighties will be able to occur again, especially after the Government outlawed the risky schemes which caused it.

But the NCC report concludes: "Equity-release schemes could benefit the very poorest and elderly people (as well as others) but only if they are properly regulated and managed, and detailed information and advice about them is available to consumers. "Therefore we think the Govern-

ment should encourage wider availability of equity-release schemes, but not without first taking steps to regulate for safer selling and much better information and advice for prospective purchasers."

Age Concern's free fact sheet titled "Raising Capital on Your Home" is available by calling 0800 009966; for a Help the Aged fact sheet on equityrelease contact Esther Ellmann on 0171-253 0253 ex 257; for a list of Ship members and a free leaflet write to The Secretary, Safe Home Income Plans. Tolworth Tower, Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 7EL; Hinton & Wild: if they want to move or face losing 0181-390 8166



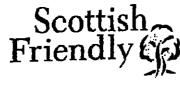
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A Grand time with the Cherokee

It's the best Jeep money can buy - and the great news is it's available here in right-hand drive. By John Sımister

All the better to intimidate with, my suppose the Cherokee Indians have a version of Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf, but the car that bears their name has a very dental visage. progress and the fine view they Here, then, in full toothiness, is

Jeep's all-new Grand Cherokee. You would think that replacing the smaller, squarer Jeep Cherokee would be a more pressing need, but

¥THE INDEPENDENT

ROAD TEST

that one is still selling vigorously after 16 years. The competition is hotter higher up the 4x4 hierarchy.

There's Land Rover's remodelled Discovery to consider, and Mercedes-Benz's ML320. Add to this the fact that the old Grand Cherokee was launched in 1993. even though it didn't head here for another three years, and the product plan makes sense.

Clearly, the new car's style is influenced by the old, so much so that unless you see them together you might not spot the differences. But the new one has a wedgier profile, more rounded corners, bigger headlights and those bared fangs. This is not a discreet face. especially when it's filling the rear-view mirror of the car in front.

It's a major remake. Just 127 parts of this Austrian-built car are carried over from the old model, of which the largest is the oil filter used on the smaller of the two available engines, a 4.0-litre straight-six.

That engine is similar to the older model's, but the V8 alternative is a new, much more modern unit

y, what big whose 4.7 litres produce more musteeth it's got! cle-power than the old V8's 5.2 litres managed.

Now, you might think that all fat off-roaders are instruments of the dear. I don't devil. But quite apart from an ability to clamber over rocks, through mud and across sand dunes, many off-roaders are favoured transport because of their relaxed mode of give of the world beyond hedges. Here, the Grand Cherokee scores on every count.

The off-road part of its repertoire is helped by a quadra-drive system boosted by a quadra-trac II transfer case which sends its power to Front and rear Vari-Lok differentials. Look behind the buzz-names, and we find a clever design which automatically sends power to the wheels with the

Most of the time, whether on or off-road, most power goes to the rear wheels. If one rear wheel starts to slither, the resultant overall speed of the rear axle becomes higher than at the front, and this speed difference causes an adjustable-pressure clutch to divert power towards the front wheels.

Similar clutches, controlled by similar hydraulic pumps, work across each axle to send power to the side with the most grip. It's all automatic, and effective enough to keep the Jeep going even if only one wheel has grip. The only trans-mission control, apart from a conventional automatic gear-selector, is a high-range/low-range lever.

So effective is it that, as with a really good braking system, you don't notice it's there. I took a 4.0litre Grand Cherokee off-roading up a mountain stream, albeit with property chunky off-road tyres, and -well it just went up the stream. The only snag was the over-sensitive accelerator, which made for jerky progress over bumps as my right

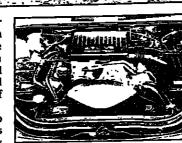


In many ways, though, the bigger engineering challenge is to make an off-roader feel good on-road. This the Grand does, thanks to a ride which feels remarkably flat and controlled for a car so high off the ground, and whose suspension is capable of such extremes of movement.

It filters bumps right away, too, so the ride is quiet and smooth. Just as good, the steering is positive in a way a 4x4's often isn't, so you don't get the feeling that you're tacking into a cross-current to take up the slack.

This quiet, relaxed motion suits the interior's ambience, which uses real leather and not-so-real wood to set the tone. The plastics feel less plasticky than before, and the independent heater controls for the cabin's left and right sides use infrared detectors to measure each front occupant's radiated heat.

I've left the best bit to the end. Well it's the best bit if we're talking about the V8, for the six-cylinder is merely adequately smooth and lively, and suffers from an irritatingly



indecisive automatic transmission. The V8 is another experience entirely, surely worth the extra £5,000 purchase price and the paltry 1.2mpg average economy penalty now that, unlike the old V8. you don't have to suffer left-hand drive.

Squeeze the accelerator floorwards - and feel the Jeep squirm a little and launch itself into the distance with the cleanest and crackliest of V8 throbbing noises, and you'll be starting a serious addiction. It's a civilised hot-rod, and it feels inMake and model:

217bhp at 4,700rpm

Limited

Price: £34,995

wheel drive

8.1sec, 13-18mpg

MON - FRI 9AM - 8PM

Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.7 V8

Engine: 4,701cc V8, 16 valves,

Performance: 122mph. 0-60 in

Transmission: four-speed

automatic gearbox, four-

All the better to eat the road with,



Meaner and more powerful than its predecessor, the new Jeep Grand Cherokee squares up confidently to its rivals in the 4x4 market

SPECIFICATIONS

RIVALS

Land Rover Discovery 4.0 V8i ES: £35,070. Poshest Discovery matches Jeep's plushness but not its pace. Clever no-lean suspension makes for surprising agility Mercedes-Benz ML320: £31,780. Less powerful than Jeep, and only six cylinders, but this Mercedes is delightful to

drive. Cabin feels cheap, though Made in US Mitsubishi Shogun 3.5 V6: £39,995. Top Shogun has all the equipment but not much of the style. It's very capable off-road, though

Toyota Landcruiser Colorado 3.4 VX: £34,440. Same story as with the Shogun. The Jeep is a far more desirable proposition

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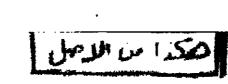
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PROPERTY

Go back to your roots

Want a break from the rat race? Then how about becoming a landowner. By Fiona Brandhorst



Four-year-old Eve O'Brien prepares to feed the fairies in the wood her parents bought and named after her

Chris Eades

the A21 from London O'Brien family to make an unusual addition to their property portfolio just over a year ago. Intrigued by boards advertising woodlands for sale, rol and Nigel called up the number on their mobile, expecting to find the cost way beyond their reach.

But, after visiting on an open day, they were hooked. "It was a case of want, want, want," remembers Carol, who was pleased to find that the other owners they met were not 'snotty aristocrats".

The O'Briens' land comprises 11 acres of broadleaved woodland surrounding one acre of south-facing grassland with an open view, and it cost just over £14,000. Were they nervous about their investment? "I've always had a bee in my bonnet about our daughter, Eve, growing up in a central London maisonette without a garden," says Carol.

"To upgrade to an address near us with a garden would cost a lot more. If we can't have a garden, why inot a wood where we can learn about nature together? It sounds like a cliche, but it's our wonderful little

haven of tranquillity." The O'Briens took out a personal loan to buy their wood. "It was the

woodland, and they were very into Kent led the terested in the idea; even my solicitor had never come across it, but it was a fairly routine process."

They try to visit every weekend; but can you maintain woodland on a part-time basis? English Nature and the Forestry Commission have en helpful, and the O'Briens made contact with locals and other woodland owners who help with jobs such as coppicing (in return for the timber) or making paths.

"There's a great support system, we've learnt so much already." says Carol, who keeps a diary of the seasonal changes in the wood so as not to miss out on anything from year to year. "The bluebells should be out in a few weeks, and they really are breathtaking."

Split ownership of land has meant that hunts have to gain permission from more people to cross their land. It is also a chance for anti-hunting supporters to really have some say. Carol had a phone call from the leader of a hunt wanting to cross her wood. "He was very courteous," she says. "but I had no he; tation in refusing him permission."

Over the past 50 years, half of Britain's broadleaved woodlands have disappeared and been replaced by conifer plantations, agriculture and other developments. The spread

requent trips down first time the bank had lent on of Dutch elm disease has also contributed to the decline

The O'Briens bought their wood from Woodlands For Sale, started by Angus Hanton in 1988 when the "great storm" was still fresh in people's minds. He was looking for a small wood to buy for his family's enjoyment but ended up buying 100 acres of woodland in Kent with a view to selling lots on to others.

"Having found it difficult to find a wood ourselves, we wanted to try

'If we can't have a house with a garden, why not a wood where we can learn about nature together?"

to make it easier for other family buyers." says Mr Hanton, whose company now has about 1,000 acres of woodland for sale in Sussex. Kent, Surrey, Cornwall, Devon and west Wales. "It's not a cash-generating business." he adds. "It's our policy to give people more choice.

Any profits are reinvested." In this way Mr Hanton and his comanager Richard Scholfield are able to justify carrying out some work on the woods before selling them on. "We cut paths and clear

fallen trees to give people a better Honiton, in east Devon. It covers less idea." He stresses that you don't than an acre alongside a quiet lane need any specialist knowledge. Being "enthusiastic, open-minded and taking the many sources of free advice" is a good start.

Buying woodland is, however, not a money-spinning investment. Planning laws restrict the use of woodlands. Camping is allowed but limited to 28 days a year, as is clay pigeon shooting. The only buildings permitted - for storing tools and timber - are size-restricted.

Typical woodland owners are a couple with young children buying to have some fun on their own piece of land where the children can really be at home and where they can do their bit for conservation. "It's an alternative to an extension on their house or a new car," says Mr Hanton, whose own parents bought their first woodland more than 40 years ago, "It's not just a feeling of ownership, it's the flexibility - planting trees, creating paths and gath-

ering around the camp fire." Most of Woodlands For Sale's lots are from six to 15 acres and cost from £15,000, the most popular being within a two-hour drive of London.

Stags, the West Country-based estate agent, also has a number of woods for sale, including Woodcroft Copse, a small woodland in an area of outstanding natural beauty near

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and including frontage to the river Wolf. Shooting and hunting rights are included in the guide price of £5,000. David Fursdon, of Stags, believes owning woods is a "romantic thing"

"People want woods for different reasons: walking, painting, birdwatching, campi coal. Small woods up to 20 acres should hold their value."

For a more community-based idea. The Woodland Trust's campaign Woods on Your Doorstep has created 120 areas of woodland since its launch last year.

There is still time for members of the public to suggest sites from one to 20 acres within walking distance of where people live. If suitable, they will be purchased by the trust with the help of a £6.5m grant from the Millennium Commission, although local fundraising is expected to meet half the cost of the wood.

The O'Briens have renamed their wood Eve Wood, to the delight of their four-year-old daughter who leaves buns and sweets for the woodland fairies. Carol is constantly making new discoveries. "Our wood is big enough to be interesting but not too big to be unmanageable."

Woodlands For Sale: 01435 883360, www.woodlands.co.uk: English

Registration Numbers



A tender moment – but money matters can turn things nasty if the relationship ands

Chris Watt

Gay owners told to put it in writing

Documenting who owns what can save much heartache - and money - if the couple later part. By Robert Liebman

ONE IN a cluster of jokes familiar among lesbians begins with the question: what does a lesbian do on the second date? Answer: move in.

But moving into someone else's home, or buying a property together, involves moving into omeone's life. Stakes are high both emotionally and financially, yet often the money side of things is poorly documented or not formålised at all.

Judith Burton, a solicitor whose firm has a large number of gay and lesbian clients, recalls a couple who bought a property in the Eighties as joint tenants. which meant that they owned it equally even though one of the two had paid 90 per cent of the purchase price.

contributed less insisted on receiving her half-share of the property value. "It went to court, and the original owner had to settle because her former partner was legally aided. They settled at 40 per cent. It took years to resolve and was very costly."

Another woman bought a property for herself and for her partner as tenants in common, an arrangement in which the ownership can be in unequal shares - 90/10, for example, or 60/40 - and which can be declared in writing.

"This couple did not specify the ownership percentages, and, after they split up, the one who had provided most of the money was the one who moved out," says Ms Burton. And, although she was no longer living there, "she was afraid of her home being essed, so she is still paying the mortgage".

The less well-off partner can be the one who finds herself exploited, or who feels ill-used, especially if she is upwardly mobile.

Not uncommonly, lesbian partners make formal arrangements in which one contributes less than the other, and owns correspondingly that much less. "Over the years her income

increases, and she starts to contribute more, but they don't modify their original agreement to take account of the higher payments. If they split up, the agreement still records her as owning less than should be the case," says Anya Palmer, of the Stonewall Housing Association. In Ms Burton's view, many

couples almost invite later trauma by neglecting to make clear arrangements at the outset. "And these situations are not unique to lesbians. They also apply to gay men and to heterosexual nonmarried couples.

"The main issues when lesbians are buying or living together involve the right of occupation, the right to inherit and the division of net proceeds in the of them.

"If the couple were married. rights to occupy and inherit. Bematic right to occupation." says

beginning of a new relationship clarity at the outset can ward off ugly disputes later

When Ms Burton acts for the purchaser, "at the time of purchase, I ask: 'Do you want your partner to have a right under a contract, or declaration of trust, or a deed to give her the right to occupy?' We can draw up a deed protecting her, or you can leave it up to trust law to intervene and say whether or not she has a right to occupy the property at the appropriate time".

Leaving things to chance can be problematic. For example, if one of the partners in a tenancy in common were to die, "even if her partner has the right to occupy the property, in theory she could suddenly be occupying the They had a bitter split a few property with her partner's partremely unlikely. "but the parents

> When one couple split up, the one who paid most of the money was the one forced to move'

or trustee could force a sale by obtaining a declaration from the court that the property should be sold," says Ms Burton.

A comprehensive range of issues needs to be taken into account. Ms Burton advises lesbians, whether buying together or moving in to a property owned by a new partner to put key decisions in writing.

"You can spell out 'outgoings' not just the mortgage but also the cost of repairs to the property. bills for gas and electricity and water and structural alterations. If one partner wants to leave, does the other have the option to buy out the share, and in what timeframe?" She also suggests that. to avoid costly solicitors' fees, the partners agree to settle disputes by arbitration.

Craig Lind, a lecturer in law at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth, says: "People in gay relationships often incorrectly assume that, because the law does not recognise their relationships, they can't acquire rights in each other's property."

He notes that "a lesbian can acquire an equitable share in property amounting to shared ownership by, for example, paying some household expenses if those payments enable her partner to pay the mortgage. Some people even contribute mortgage payments but tend to think of it as rent and of themselves as lodgers, but with no rights."

Another problem area arises when couples present themselves just as housemates and attempt event of a split, or the death of one to conceal the romantic side of their relationship.

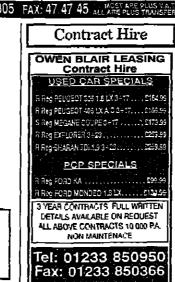
"Couples really should 'come both would automatically have out, at least to their solicitors," advises Ms Burton. "Otherwise cause lesbians are not and can- they may be wrongly advised. not be legally married, if the That is partly why we are now owner decides to throw her part-seeing a lot of cases - these are ner out, the partner has no auto- people who have received the wrong advice in the past."

Although frank discussions of Judith Burton & Co solicitors: money matters are not easy for 0171-491 0048; Stonewall: 0171-359 many people, especially at the 5767; Croig Lind; 01970 62 2731

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HOT SPOT

STROUD GREEN, NORTH LONDON

Obscure area of desire

troud Green is an area of north London whose identity and reputation do not extend much beyond its own borders. Obscure it may be, but it has solid transportation links and illustrious neighbours - a potent combination for rising property values.

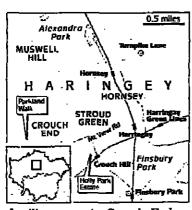
Stroud Green is a residential enclave surrounded by Finsbury Park, Holloway, Crouch End, Hornsey and Harringay. The station at Finsbury Park serves two Underground lines (Piccadilly and Victoria) and two distinct rail lines: one provides direct connections to the City, and the other is a main line linking Kings Cross to Cambridge and other north-east destinations. The bus terminal at Finsbury Park connects with bus routes which fan out in all directions.

Most sections of Stroud Green involve a train and bus journey, but the bus service is frequent, and the area is fairly convenient for the City and West End. It is consequently attracting spillover from Islington and immediate neighbour Crouch End.

The area's many period houses have mostly been converted, but a significant number remain intact, including five-bedroom and the occasional six-bedroom property. Stroud Green thus attracts growing families as well as singles and childless couples.

The streets on and near Mount View Road are the most sought-after and the most expensive, with prices topping £400,000. Prices drop precipitously on other roads. Three-bedroom houses in reasonable condition are available for less than £150,000. Decent two-bedroom flats in period conversions on attractive streets sell for less than £100,000, and ex-council and studio flats in converted houses sell for less than £50,000.

"Stroud Green is getting city professionals with children, who decide that, instead of a flat or small house in Islington, it is worth going a half-mile north for a character three- or fourbedroom house for the same price," says Geoff Vedgen of Bairstow Eves. "The schools are surprising good, especially up to age 11, and then the



families move to Crouch End or Muswell Hill"

The area's housing infrastructure is benefiting from gentrification. David Copestake, managing director of David Philips estate agents, believes that "the schools have been improving because the area has been improving. Ten years ago, many properties here were neglected. Now, there are more owner-occupiers and they take better care of their homes. There are no more Ford Cortinas in the front garden."

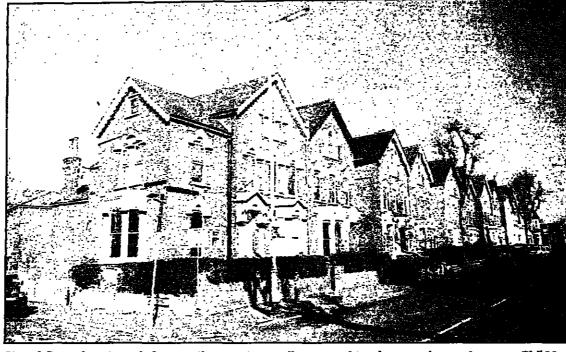
The council estates have also improved - "even Holly Park, which used to have a bad reputation and is now fine," says Mr Copestake. "Holly Park is still mostly council tenants. In other estates, the ratio of council tenants has gone from 90 per cent to 40 per cent. Communal areas are clean, and the blocks well maintained."

Stroud Green has some purposebuilt modern houses and blocks of flats, especially near Manor House, along with an occasional church conversion or other unusual dwelling. In the main, though, period properties predominate.

Property hunters shouldn't auto-matically write off past or current rail lines. Finsbury Park and Alexandra Park used to be connected by a rail line which, now trackless, is Parkland Walk, a nature reserve. It can lend a genuinely rustic ambience to gardens lucky enough to back onto it.

Even the currently active rail line serving Crouch Hill station is benign. It is lightly used, although goods trains also travel the line.





Stroud Green boasts period properties, a nature walk (top) and two large parks nearby

Phil Meech

IN THE MONEY

THREE TO VIEW



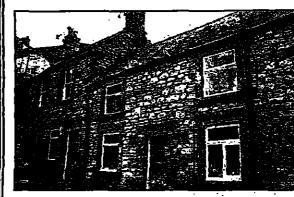
PENNY COTTAGE in Pleshey, Essex, is about 200 years old but got its name as recently as 1972 when, during renovation, a 19th-century penny was found.

The three-bedroom house has a split personality. From the street it looks like the other period houses in the village, but the addition at the back includes a covered porch and redbrick-based bay window. Grade Il listed, the cottage has an oak stripped floor in the sitting room, refitted 17'9" kitchen with limed-oak units. Neff oven and hob, and a detached double garage with a stairway to an 18ft office above. Offers around £185,000, details from Trembath Weich (01371 872117).



THIS HALF-timbered period house in The Mint, in Rye, East Sussex, is in the middle of the ancient Cinque Port town. From the panelled oak front door, walk into the 20ft drawing room with a ceiling height of around 8'6", heavy timber framing and an African slate floor. There is a 20ft dining kitchen with full-height

diamond-leaded doors to the rear terrace and gardens, wine shelves and white tiled surfaces. There are two bedrooms, study (with access to a roof garden) and a bathroom on the first floor, with the main bedroom on the second. Offers around £230,000 to Phillips & Stubbs



HIS STONE COL drive from Matlock in the Peak District, has had considerable renovation work done, but needs finishing off. Formerly two houses, it now has three bedrooms, the biggest of which has an original open fireplace with cast-iron hearth, dining room with a white Rayburn, and bathroom with Victorian bath with ball-and-claw feet. There are stone outhouses, a garage and a workshop. £125,000, details from Fidler-Taylor (01629 814040). ROSALIND RUSSELL

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: "Prices have gone up since January," reports James Ballard of Winkworth, "Many properties become available, but there is a rapid turnover." Fivebedroom houses sell for £300,000 or more unless they need a great deal of work, when they can go for as little as £175,000. **Properties:** Bairstow Eves is

currently asking £315,000 for a three-storey corner property with

a separate flat on each floor, each vacant. Last winter, a similar house with seven units was on the market. Well used and much abused over the years, these investment properties generally require major refurbishment and can be converted again into onefamily premises.

Transport: Finsbury Park Station is in Zone 2. The rail line into the city stops at Old Street and

Moorgate. From the bus depot at Finsbury Park station, the W7 proceeds along Stroud Green Road to Crouch End, and the W3 turns onto Stapleton Hall Road and reaches much of Stroud Green via Ferme Park Road. The 210 turns in the other direction, toward Archway and the Islington part of Stroud Green, Crouch Hill station is on the little-used but still

chugging Barking-Gospel Oak line.

Shopping and dining: Crouch End is top-heavy with restaurants. but supermarket snopping means a trek to Green Lanes or the Wood Green shopping centre.

Council: Most of Stroud Green is in Haringey; Band D council tax is £898. Band D in Islington is £912. A council porkie? The Haringey Guide claims that, in addition to birds, bats, and foxes, Parkland Walk is home to muntjac deer.

panels on a former dairy now adorn a dar/restaurant. "It cos the brewer a fortune, and it's a big crowd puller to the area." says David Copestake. Otherwise, the extraordinary exterior on the increasingly derelict building faced an uncertain future. Estate agents: Bairstow Eves. 0181-809 5050; David Philips, 0171-686 7676: Winkworth, 0181-342 9999.

What a relief! Seven external wall

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ANNA PAVORD:

GARDENING, PAGE 16

She was the First Lady of Country and she was a survivor. She'd lived with drug addiction, depression and D.I.V.O.R.C.E. And then she died. What killed Tammy Wynette? And why?

BY DAVID USBORNE

eorgette Smith asks her twin five-year-old boys to go play somewhere else and then turns on the stereo. It is a gentle country ballad that fills the room, light on twanging guitar but heavy on crying strings and the cooing of backing singers. And then there is that voice, soft yet powerful and always heartbreaking. Especially heartbreaking today, in this home. "So I'll keep on falling in love/ Till I get it right."

The artist is Tammy Wynette, still called the First Lady of Country, who died at just 55 on 6 April last year, curled up like a child on a sofa in her Nashville mansion. Georgette, sitting motioness with her hands clasped together, almost in prayer, is ammy's youngest daughter. She can listen to her mother's music now. For several months after her passing, she could not, "I get

comfort out of it," she admits. The songs of Wynette have been bursting out all over Buddies played their set of country covers. "Did you hear the before launching into the most famous Wynette song of all, "Stand

by Your Man". "Tammy's back!" Back, but only for a few hours and in gruesome circumstances under the knives and scalpels of a coroner. At 7.30 am that day, the body of Ms Wynette had been disinterred and subjected to a belated autopsy. It took until noon, when her year-old corpse was returned to its resting place behind a marble panel on the third floor of a bland mausoleum building in a cemetery just south

Ms Wynette, whose lyrics were infused with her struggles in life, had thus been thwarted once more. For nearly 30 years she suffered multiple failed marriages and crippling medical and drug addiction problems that she fought furiously to keep private. Now, all of it is splashing in gawdy Technicolor into headlines and television stories around the world. Even in death, the hairdresserturned-superstar who cut 39 country Top 10 hits and sold 30 million records - and who, in 1992, chastised Hillary Rodham Clinton, a First Lady-to-be, for proclaiming that she was not a "Stand by Your Man" kind of woman - cannot find peace.

Responsible for disturbing her are those who say they loved her the most, her daughters. Earlier this month, Georgette and two of her sisters - Jackie Daly, in whose modest Nashville home we sit now, and Tina Jones - filed a wrongful death suit against George Richey, Wynette's last and fifth husband and her personal manager, and Dr Wallis Marsh, a Pittsburgh-based doctor who alone had supervised her medical care since the late Eighties. The filing forced the hand of Richey who, early on Wednesday, gave the city's medical examiner. Dr Bruce Levy, permission to exhume his wife's body. Thus the autopsy that the three women had been publicly agitating for for months finally went ahead.

At the core of the suit are allegations that the two men botched Wynette's care over a long period (Marsh, in part, because he was acting as her primary doctor even though his practice was hundreds of miles away in Pittsburgh); that they reacted inadequately to her final and fatal crisis; and, more gravely, that over years they acted as conscious enablers of her addiction to pain-killing narcotics. The suit also seeks to establish what occurred precisely on that night, just over a year ago, at the

The story we have now, supplied mostly by Marsh and Richey

and rehearsed in the suit, is that Wynette had complained to her husband on that day of feeling especially unwell, with a strange stinging in her legs. Richey apparently phoned Marsh for advice. who told him to "seek immediate medical attention". The lawsuit contends that Richey instead gave her medication himself. a short while later Wynette died while asleep on the sofa. It was many hours before Marsh arrived from Pittsburgh. He reported that Wynette had died from blood clots on the lung. She was buried; a memorial ceremony was held three days later at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium and broadcast live on CNN. No autopsy was thought necessary.

The court action, which asks for \$50m (£31m) in damages, has left Nashville and the country music industry in shock. And people are beginning to take sides. In one camp are those who accuse the women of digging for money. They note that all of Wynette's estate was left in trust for her children, with income from it going to Richey, now 60, until he dies. They also point out the singer stipulated in her will that anyone who challenges it Nashville this week, like at the scruffy Legends' Corner bar in will be automatically disinherited. With the lawsuit, the critics the Tin Pan South district on Wednesday night. On stage, Holly's say, the daughters are circumventing a provision that was designed to forestall exactly this kind of public family brawl. Othnews?" Holly asked the punters, some in cowboy hats and boots, ers offer quiet sympathy for the women and share with them their suspicions about their mother's death.

Wynette's health problems began with a hysterectomy shortly after the birth of Georgette, who is now 28. What followed was an unremitting battle with crippling intestinal pain and blockages in the bowel. Wynette underwent multiple surgeries, but with each operation came more scar tissue. Towards the end. Wynette's once piercing beauty had shrivelled, leaving her with the face of an old woman. She had a catheter in her side and took much of her food through intravenous tubes. Above all, however, her addiction to narcotics, which even a spell in 1986 at the Betty Ford Clinic failed to break, had continued to worsen.

Georgette recalls her mother's plight. "Sometimes she would go for a couple of weeks without eating any solid food. But here the kind of mother she was: one of those times, we were all visiting Tammy and when I got up there she was in the kitchen making this huge breakfast for us all, all our favourite things to eat, even though food made her feel nauseous. I told her, You don't have to do this', and she replied: 'I love doing this for you and I would be heartbroken if you told me to stop.

She remembers, too, the misgivings she felt for her stepfather, Richey, who had been married to her mother for 20 years. According to Georgette, whose real father was Wynette's third husband, the country singer George Jones, Richey would grow jealous of friends who took up any of his wife's time and spin lies to turn her against them. "Once, he told her that one of her girlfriends had tried to hit on him. which wasn't true." Nor. allegedly. was Wynette allowed to spoil her own children. "She had to sneak things to us. If we went shopping and she bought us clothes, we would have to leave them in the trunk of her car and switch them to our cars when he wasn't looking."

Even Wynette occasionally acknowledged the strains in her marriage. Georgette believes her mother was unable, however, to face the prospect of yet one more divorce and life alone, particularly when she had become so frail. "She was embarrassed by the failures of her earlier marriages."

It was the drugs, however, more than the illness, that enslaved Wynette. And it will be the drugs issue that will dominate if the wrongful death claim makes it to trial. According to the suit, the star was hooked during her last years on a cocktail of Demerol, Continued on page 2



eaders and comment

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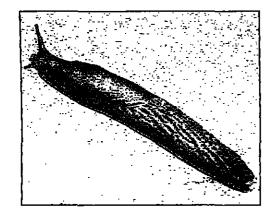
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Why David Beckham has to wear white



Ostrich mania: when their feathers were worth more than gold



Sarah Raven tells you how to sling out the slugs

PLUS Beryl Bainbridge's diary Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall Michael Bywater Alain de Botton Simon Singh AN Wilson **Brian Viner**



Billingsgate No 6: At the end of their day's work, porters at London's fish market relax with a cup of tea

Kalpesh Lathigra

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters/@independent.co.uk (e-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address). Letters may be edited for length and clarity

Kosovo coverage

Sir: The radically differing accounts given by Nato of the bombing of Albanian refugees on Wednesday raises more general concerns about the way events in Yugoslavia are being covered in the media. We were appalled by the

lack of critical coverage of Nato's announcement on 8 April that it would treat Yugoslay television and radio transmitters as "legitimate targets" for bombing unless they broadcast Western reports on the war for up to six hours a day. We note that while Nato indicates that it has partially retracted this have been bombed.

The idea that Nato should silence television and radio because it dislikes their coverage of the war violates the most basic principles of freedom of speech. If any foreign state used such crude threats to try to control the content of our own media, people in this country would be justifiably outraged.

In conditions of war, the public has the right to expect objectivity and independence from the media. Regrettably Nato seems to desire the precise opposite. In recent weeks we have

been deeply disturbed by the

pressure on the media to toe the Nato line and the repetition as fact of Nato press briefings which have frequently turned out to be incorrect. The significant opposition to Nato bombing registered in opinion polls is not proportionately reflected in media coverage of the war. BARRY WHITE Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom JOHN FOSTER General Secretari National Union of Journalists JOHN PILGER TIM GOPSILL Press officer. NUJ BERNIE CORBETT

GERMAINE GREER JEREMY HARDY JEREMY DEAR National organiser. NUJ Committee for Peace in the Balkans London SW1

Sir: We are told that "Truth is the first casualty of war." Will Nato be the second?

Our moral leaders, engaged in a battle of *good against evil", have no qualms about destroying the civilian infrastructure of an already impoverished, sanctioncrippled country. They shamelessly try to cover their "accidents" by initially trying to convince us that the Serbs themselves bombed the Albanian refugee convoy

The failure of the campaign they are waging is leading them to overcompensate in the only sphere in which they are clear winners, ie propaganda. London N19

Sir. Having been subjected for nearly 30 years to Communist propaganda in the former Czechoslovakia, which taught me never to believe anything until officially denied, I now find my intellect subjected to the same indignity by our democratically elected leaders.

To be told of a military degradation (smashing up bridges, power stations, food processing factories) and an odd regrettable mistake (blowing up a passenger train and a convoy of refugees; and to be fed a daily diet of implausible reasoning by Nato representatives and our own government is truly nauseating. Goebbels would be proud of them all. Mrs HEDVIKA FRASER

Sir: Your article about the treatment meted out to Albanian doctors in Kosovo ("Albanian doctors singled out for Serbian brutality". 13 April) is a common scenario in conflict situations.

We have worked with Kurdish and Arab doctors from Iraq who had been instructed to punish so-called criminals by surgically removing their noses or ears. On refusing, they were thrown into jails where torture and summary execution were the norm.

An Algerian doctor fied in fear for his life after refusing to falsify the death certificates

of those killed by the police. Escaping to the UK is certainly not the end of their

troubles, but they are initially grateful for any shelter and lifestyle. However, they are soon keen to achieve some sense of normality. This usually centres on a desire to get back to medicine, so regaining some of their identity through using their skills, earning their way and contributing fully to the society that has given them safe haven, and which needs extra doctors.

However, there are real difficulties to be surmounted. They are required to sit examinations demonstrating heir competence in English. their medical knowledge and their ability to apply these skills in a way appropriate to the UK environment and culture.

They do not dispute that this is reasonable. Unfortunately, they often have no money for expensive medical textbooks, are not allowed to use medical libraries and get no exposure to British medical practice. Work placements are extremely scarce.

Professionals such as these need support through a short but crucial period of retraining for UK medicine. They are an asset to the UK as many previous generations of refugee doctors have been both to refugee communities and health services generally. Dr SHEILA CHEEROTH Queen Mary and Westfield College London E1

Votes that count

Sir: Hilary Armstrong, the Minister for Local Government is right ("Prescott and Blair clash on PR elections", 15 April). Proportional representation is not the "secret answer" to problems in town halls – there is nothing "secret" about it.

If the minister intended to imply that PR was not a complete answer to town hall problems, then I could only agree. However, when it has so much more potential to overcome the problems of unaccountability than other proposed reforms - such as

the introduction of elected mayors and cabinet systems within the councils - the Government's refusal to include PR as part of its modernisation package raises questions about its

commitment to reform. After the elections on 6 May we will continue to see some councils dominated by a single party in spite of considerable electoral support for opposition parties. With very little opposition to hold the running party to account, conditions are created in which it is easier for bad decisions to be taken.

On 6 May we are also likely to see some turnouts of less than 20 per cent but, with an election system in which so many votes will be no more than futile gestures, a low turnout is only to be expected.

PR might not be the complete answer, but the introduction of a voting system such as STV, which is broadly proportional and which offers more meaningful choices to voters, would go a long way towards making councillors more accountable and encouraging people to vote. Dr KEN RITCHIE Chief Executive Electoral Reform Society London SE1

Sir: The Government is rightly pursuing many measures to tackle the corruption and incompetence of a few local authorities but, by shelving the one measure that would open the decisionmaking process to the light of scrutiny, they are failing to

tackle sleaze at source. Furthermore, by creating local authority cabinets and elected mayors, the Government is asking councillors to make their main role that of holding an executive to account. But with one in five authorities effectively one-party states, without PR and a strong official opposition in council chambers, scrutiny will be toothless. Open and accountable government needs debate to be aired in public, and not just within the ruling party.

At a time when we have elections under a proportional

system for the European and Scottish Parliaments and the National Assembly for Wales, and when a referendum on voting reform for the House of Commons is a government pledge, it is illogical to ignore PR for local government. PAM GIDDY Director, Charter 88 London N1

Doctors, note!

Sir. Dr John Urquhart (letter, 15 April) should know that the answers to his question as to who will pay for the millennium burden on the NHS created by attempts to procure a birth in the new

(i) that doctors in particular, but also nursing staff to some degree, will be expected to work longer hours with shorter rest periods, with no compensation;

(ii) that the fact that the rest of the population will be either cavorting and celebrating or working for treble rates is of no relevance;

(iii) that if there is an increase in medical accidents and delays in dealing with both emergencies and routine surgery it will be another example of falling standards in the NHS, which the taxpayer will find quite scandalous; (iv) that in no

circumstances should the

British taxpayer be expected to fork out the same share of national GDP which other developed nations spend on healthcare because we deserve the best in the world and what we pay now must be enough to get it, and anyway how could we afford two foreign holidays and three cars in the family if we had to pay more to those doctors who should be grateful that we have provided them with such wonderful jobs? A D HOADLEY Eastbourne, East Susser

Big numbers

Sir: The telephone number changes to which Julie Friend refers (letter, 13 April) have not been entered into lightly. The changes came from the Government's own regulator.

Oftel, rather than from BT They were brought about because six areas of the UK are running out of numbers.

It is now the responsibility of the licensed operating companies to implement the technical changes necessary in their networks and to tell everyone about them. The phone companies are working together on communicating the code and number changes through the "Big

Number" campaign. Information on all aspects of the code and number changes for both consumers and business is available on The Big Number website (www.numberchange.org) or by calling the freephone helpline, 0808 22 4 2000. PETER CLARK Co-ordinator, National Code & Number Change The Big Number London WC2

IN BRIEF

Sir: Mr Tom Newth of Christie's ("Chip off the moon fetches £9,200", 16 April) says we are not sure why most meteorite finds occur in Antarctica. He suggests that it is due to the Earth's magnetic field, but the answer is more mundane. Rocks are not more likely to land in Antarctica than elsewhere, but are much more likely to be found if they do. Since much of Antarctica is featureless, glaciated and unchanged in thousands of years, a piece of strange rock is more likely to be spotted there than in most other places on the planet. ANTHONY POTTS London E14

Sir: I agree with Miles Kington (15 April): the word "Asian" lumps together people from many diverse backgrounds and denies them their individuality. It is like calling a Frenchman "a European", which might be technically correct but is insensitive. I am an Indian and would like to be called just that though, since I come from Kenya, you could call me an Indian from Kenya. NITIN MEHTA Croydon, Surrey

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E.X.H.U.M.E.D: But what killed Tammy?

Continued from page 1

Dilaudid, methadone and Versed. And extraordinary means were al- down the road would have raised the legedly devised to get them to red flag to the drug enforcement Nashville in sufficient quantities. The suit says packages were often shipped by Dr Marsh from Pitts- er about six weeks to gather the reburgh via the courier UPS. Geor- sults gette offers further detail. She says Richey would pay for plane seats for drug packages or charter jets to allow himself or a staff member to to Europe to pick up a shipment.

"Obviously there was something wrong here," Georgette offers. "You don't have to use much imagination

these quantities at the pharmacy

from Wednesday's extraordinary autopsy. They could help settle the dispute in two ways. They might show up unusual levels of drugs in Wynette. They might also take personal delivery. Once, she show whether or not large blood says. Richey actually flew Concorde clots were present on her lungs.

Georgette Smith has mixed hopes for the tests. "I would prefer it if the tests show that my mother died a natural death. If they show a

to see that shopping for drugs in huge blood clot on her lungs, then her death was supposed to be and it was her time and we can all move on. But I really don't think that's what we're going to find," she com-

Richey himself revealed that the autopsy had taken place, to a stunned Nashville press corps at a downtown hotel. He used the occasion to excoriate his step-daughters. "I'm saddened that, out of frustration over financial matters, her daughters have been willing to work so hard to discredit their mother." he said. Of the autopsy he said: "I know exactly what happened to Tammy today, and I despise it."



Opinions about the quarrel at egends Corner were as divided as was making him. And he thought that he could just keep her going Legends' Corner were as divided as they are across the industry. Peter with the drugs. Every time she had Miles, a country performer in Nashville this month to produce a record for a friend, was disgusted by

"A lot of us are saddened by it, because there is no reason for it. Everyone paid their respects to Tammy when she died and everybody is distraught about this. They should let her rest with dignity."

Another small-time performer who is well known in Nashville offered a different opinion, but on condition of anonymity. "I think Richey was addicted to the money that she

a crisis, he would shoot her up. This time he just gave her too much. In my mind that means he murdered her," he said quietly. Inside the Woodlawn Cemetery

Mausoleum - a five-storey block that looks from the outside like an office building - there are no signs of the invasion that was made this week on the dead. The marble square in the wall that bears the name Tammy Wynette is quite intact, with brass fasteners holding it in place. Beside it is a stand with a small book where une. The suggestion of family togetherness, sadly, is misplaced.

Mindy from Nashville, visited on Wednesday morning, during the time when the crypt was actually

Attached to the marble itself are a few family mementoes, including a sentimental poem left by Georgette. It ends: "I love you Mom, Georgette." And there is a small birthday card too, attached with Scotch tape to mark 5 May last year, when Tammy Wynette would have burned 56. Inside is a handwritten message that reads: "Mom... We love and miss you, Richey and the kids." The sentiment of love is surely gen-

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435 THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Lay off the BBC – it is doing its proper job in Belgrade

GOTCHA! THE BBC's John Simpson is a Serb agent. That is the silly allegation levelled by some Labour MPs in public, and some Government rainisters and officials in private. They really should know better. Mr Simpson may be guilty of many crimes, including the ludicrous affectation of calling himself World Affairs Editor. but being an apologist for the odious Milosevic regime is not one of them.

It is surprising that our new generation of rulers should fall into the same errors as their predecessors. As Tony Blair has often said, we should learn from history, not be imprisoned by it. He was a young man of 22 when Saigon fell to the Viet Cong. He knows about the role played by television in ending the Vietnam war. He knows how one powerful image, of the young girl covered in napalm running towards the camera, did more than almost anything else to undermine the American people's support for the war.

Mr Blair was a 29-year-old parliamentary candidate when Margaret Thatcher clashed with the BBC over its failure to act as the government's propaganda arm in the Falklands war. He knows how the BBC's international reputation was compromised during that war by the row about whether it should refer to the British forces as "our" troops.

He ought to know, too, how the US military took precisely the wrong lesson from the experience of Vietnam, which was to try to restrict and control broadcasters' access to war zones. That is what happened in the Gulf war; it also marked a shift from a merely negative to a positive strategy for managing the media. In the Gulf, the US realised the importance of supplying broadcasters with pictures, and began the practice, seen again this week, of supplying video footage of missiles hitting targets. This may have distracted CNN and the BBC from dwelling too long on "collateral" damage to residential suburbs of Baghdad

and Belgrade, but it can be counter-productive. For one thing, it has the effect of portraying war as a computer game, giving the impression that death and destruction are being meted out at a distance, by remote control, in some dishonourable and callous way. And this week's video of the Serb bridge being hit as a passenger train passed over it, intended to show how the pilot could not have seen the train in time, was run over and over again in slow motion, which gave quite the opposite impression.

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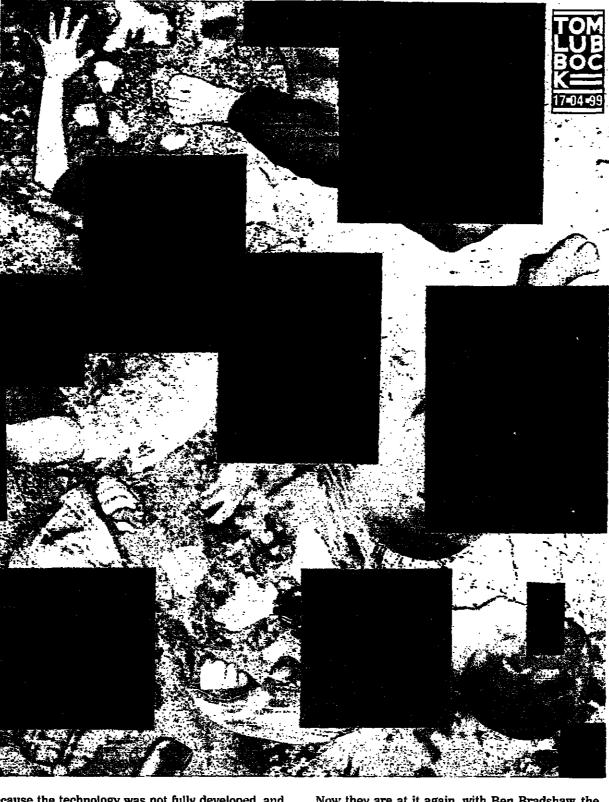
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IN BRIEF

Indeed, in a modern war fought by a democracy or an alliance of democracies, it is now the case that any attempt to control or censor reporting is not just wrong, but pointless. If the cause is just, then the peoples of the 19 Nato countries will support the war whatever is truthfully reported from Kosovo - so long as there are not too many tragic accidents in which tractors are mistaken for tanks.

There is a difference between understanding the power of images and seeking to control them. The point about the pictures relayed back to the United States from Vietnam is that they told the truth: that the war was wrong, could not be won, and was being fought by deliberately cruel and inhuman means.

It is inevitable that in almost any war now there will be television pictures "from the other side". Partly



because the technology was not fully developed, and partly because of the logistics, the Falklands was the last really "closed" war in which the British government could completely control reporting. In 1991, Western viewers saw the bombs fall on Bagh-

dad from civilian cameras on the ground as well as from military ones in the air. Simpson got it in the neck from the Conservative government when he stayed in the Iraqi capital - famously observing a cruise missile go past his hotel window. But has the Labour Government learnt from this recent history, or been imprisoned by it? When it joined with the US in the most recent bombing of Iraq, just before Christmas, the Prime Minister's press secretary, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary all complained to the BBC about its "bias".

Now they are at it again, with Ben Bradshaw, the Labour MP, who was 14 when the Vietnam war ended, leading the charge, complaining when Mr Simpson reported that Nato's bombing of Serbia had strengthened Milosevic's hold over his own people. "It is a Fascist state," Mr Bradshaw said. "He should constantly remind viewers of the restrictions that he is under in his broadcasts."

But it is true that the bombing has united the Serbs against Nato. It is quite right that the peoples of Nato countries should know that, just as it is right that we should see the damage done and the mistakes that have been made. And the BBC has, in fact, been careful to explain the restrictions on reports from Belgrade. Truth need not be - and indeed cannot be - the first casualty of a modern, just war.

The Lords needs to face the electorate

FOR WHOM does the House of Lords speak? This week the Upper Chamber voted once again against equal rights for gay men, delaying the clear will of the people's elected representatives.

There were two sources of authority claimed by peers for this act of democratic vandalism. One was opinion polls - that is, the popular will as conveyed by Gallup and Harris rather than by elections to the House of Commons. Now, elections are a gruesomely blunt instrument, but they are generally preferable to one person's interpretation of a market researcher's survey. Opinion polls on this issue are. in any case, sensitive to the wording of questions. If people are asked if they want the age for gay sex cut from 18 to 16, they say no; if they are asked whether gay people should be treated the same as heterosexuals, they say yes.

The other source of authority claimed by the redleather wreckers is simpler: their own sense of rightness - by reference to the Bible, universal morality or the history of England. But there are plenty who would argue that they are wrong - by reference to a similar and overlapping range of authorities. And so the question was essentially decided on the basis of who is a member of the House of Lords and who is not.

So yesterday's proposals from the Conservatives for reforming the Upper House do matter. In this case they matter to young gay men who have been needlessly criminalised by the power of the Lords to delay justice.

The Prime Minister is right to argue that expelling the hereditary peers is a welcome first step, and that the case for it is overwhelming. It will remove, overnight, a huge reactionary bias in the revising and delaying chamber. But the question remains: in whose name will the remaining non-hereditaries revise and delay?

The answer should be clear: "Ours, the people's." But there is an obvious problem with direct elections, in that the democratic mandate of the Commons would then conflict with that of the Lords, obtained under a different electoral system and, possibly, at a different time. For that reason, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Conservative former Lord Chancellor appointed by William Hague to come up with a plan, proposes that "senators" in a new Upper House be elected for 15-year nonrenewable terms. Thus they would be democratically chosen but not democratically accountable. And it is true that there is a case for legislative scrutiny by people who are relatively immune to party whips and the shortterm pressures of re-election.

Lord Mackay should also be praised for his radicalism in seeking to expel all 26 bishops from Parliament. (Amen to that.) And for limiting prime ministerial patronage to the minimum needed to guide Bills through the chamber. But he should have chucked out the Law Lords, too, and sent them to a reconstituted Supreme Court in one of the empty committee rooms upstairs. And he should not have hedged the possibility of a phalanx of "the great and good", even if they are appointed by an independent body. If they are great and good enough, they can be appointed by the electorate.

The other element for which a strong enough case has not yet been made is representation for the nations and regions of the United Kingdom, as in the US Senate. This country is not going to have a real federal structure after devolution. But for the moment, Lord Mackay's mostly elected blueprint is the best and most democratic of the realistic plans put forward.

What Milosevic is doing is evil but it is no Final Solution

THEYVE ALL been at it these past few weeks. From Washington to London to Belgrade, the ghost of the Austrian corporal has been summoned up and set to work. On Serbian television we have been treated to the spectacle of Blair and Clinton being compared to Hitler, our own media outlets, urged on by official sources, have been quick to compare Milosevic with the great ascist monster.

The word "genocide" has also been bandied about a great deal. On the streets of Athens, where I've spent the past few days, the freshly sprayed graffiti feature a Nato symbol upon which a swastika has been superimposed. At political rallies you repeatedly hear the chant of "Clinton fascisti, Blair fascisti". This, mind you, in a city that would have had a long-term future in the German Reich had it not been for the efforts of the same Allied forces that now form the backbone of Nato. The Greek Communists delight in comparing Blair and Clinton with the Fascist dictators of the Thirties. There is, naturally enough, no comparison made between Milosevic and great Communist monsters such as Stalin.

wisted and abuse.

agees began to pour out
a fortnight ago, British newspa
over themselves to tell us that th
eerie echoes of the Second W
War". What they meant was that th
trains carrying people out of Kosovo
into forced exile reminded journalists
of the grim carriages of Auschwitz and
Dachau and Sobibor. The wear
refugees were like those who e
the roads of central
Europe when Ne
advances
cle

magnitude of Hitler. The refugi were being implicitly compared to the Jews in the Holocaust.

I can see how these terrible images might induce such thoughts. And I can also see why politicians on both sides of this conflict would seek to invoke the memory of the greatest evil of our century. There is no greater stigma, no more useful propaganda tool, than to label your enemy as a modern-day Hitler, But I think it is wrong and takes us into dangerous territory.

What is happening now in Kosovo is undoubtedly evil. Nobody who has spent any time talking with refugees and hearing their stories over the past fortnight could avoid the conclusion that they are the victims of evil. I spent all day last Saturday sitting and taking detailed statements from people who had just been driven from their homes. They told a similar story of masked thugs and five-minute warnings to leave. Everything they owned had been stolen from them. There was

evidence, too, of murder and rape. But the expulsion of the Albanians from Kosovo is not comparable to the Holocaust. It is useful to remember the facts of the Holocaust: 6 million dead Jews; the attempt to wipe off the face of the Earth an entire race of people. A network of camps with gas chambers and crematoria whose sole purpose was the industrialised

destruction of world Jewry. It was a singular event, the crime of crimes. It was a project spurred by racial hatred, and one to which all other war aims were considered secondary. The Nazi leaders were true believers and did not allow any diplomatic, much less humane, consideradvances in 1939. The suntext was ations to enter into the equation. clear: Milósevic was a monster of the They did not merely want the Jews out



FERGAL KEANE Labelling the Serb leader as a modern-day Hitler is wrong and takes us

into dangerous territory

of Germany, they wanted them obliterated from history. The only remotely comparable event in recent history has been the Rwandan genocide. Then, nearly a million people were slaughtered in an attempt to destroy the Tutsi ethnic group. Again, the plan was for a systematic and methodical destruction of an entire race. And, like

the Holocaust, it very nearly worked. I was talking about this with a Jewish colleague who happened to be with me in Macedonia reporting on the refugee crisis. His own grandparents had escaped out of Germany but numerous close relatives were later murdered in the camps. Like me, he was horrified by the plight of the refugees but also uneasy - in fact rather angry - at the constant invoking of the Holocaust. "They are two very different things. Both were wrong but both were very different. If Milosevic were like Hitler he would want to kill every single Albanian," he said. My colleague pointed to the Nazis'

expulsion of German Jews to Poland

been fully thought through - as a more apt comparison. I would suggest that Stalin's vast population-clearances in the Caucasus or his action against the Cossacks would be a more appropriate comparison.

For Milosevic, like Stalin, is a ruthless and cunning tactician. He uses terror and state power precisely to megalomaniacal paranoia of the the word advisedly, there is nothing instinctual in his embrace of Serb patriotism - nationalism and net enough without having to resort to in-Communism as the vehicle by which he will retain power. In the way that the classical Leninist ideas of political organisation offered Stalin an alibi if he needed one - to hold absolute events of the past fortnight with Nazi power, then Serb chauvinism, motivated by fear and a sense of victimhood, has provided Milosevic

with his means of survival. But I somehow doubt that Mr Milosevic cares one way or the other about the survival of the Albanian race. He first used the Kosovo Albanians as a tactical weapon to create a political moustache and scrawl the swastika. power-base built on Serb fear. Now he is driving them into exile to alter the balance of population inside Kosovo and to embarrass the Nato governments that have launched military that plans to drive the Albanians from Thirties, but the outbreak of the Second World War and the coming to of those plans. There have certainly another. been acts of genocide inside Kosovo:

in 1938 - before the Final Solution had The removal and destruction of identity documents and the "cleansing" of people from their traditional lands involves a form of genocide.

But there is no sign of a plan to wipe out the Kosovo Albanians as a people, no Final Solution to the Kosovo Albanian problem. I don't doubt that such sentiments exist in the wilder heart of Serb nationalism, but Mr Milosevic is further his power, he shares the concerned primarily with his own power and not with a fanatical racial Soviet leader but he has chosen - I use crusade of the kind that made Hitler such a singular figure of evil.

> What is happening in Kosovo is bad accurate and emotive historical comparisons. Let the leaders of today be judged for the crimes of today by the standards of today. By comparing the Germany, we not only deny the awful singularity of the Holocaust but we reduce ourselves to the realm of absurd comparison. That in a sense removes from Milosevic his personal responsibility for what is happening now. He becomes just another demon on to whose features we paint the little

It is bad history and it makes for bad politics. Let us analyse and describe Milosevic in the context in which he belongs: he is another dictator who will manipulate ethnic chauvinism and action against him. It is worth noting apply terror when he needs to, but he is certainly no Hitler. That, of course, Kosovo long pre-date Mr Milosevic. is not a statement of absolution; it does They were drawn up in earnest in the not mitigate the evil that has been visited upon the Kosovo Albanians. It is merely a plea for a man to be judged power of Tito forced the abandonment for his own crimes and not those of

people have been murdered solely The writer is a BBC special because of their ethnic background. correspondent.

Kosova children appeal to Independent readers Thousands of Kosovar refugee children now

face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the auful atrocities from which they fied. Álbania, the poorest country in



Your action will save children who have lost everything The European Children's Trust needs your swift response

to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosovar families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever. Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a

normal life. £30 could buy emergency medicine and food for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.

Konova Emergency Appeni. The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8359. 64e Queen Street, London, EC49 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose II£30 II my c children. (Cheques to Ti Or debit my Access/Visa	hoice £ to save Kosovar ne European Children's Trust please). n/CAF card:
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Please return to: Don M^c Cready, (115), Kosowi Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KE8359, 64e Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR Reg. Charles No. 103070 Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW , your gift will save lives

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

Civilian casualties in the Balkans • General Pinochet • Miss Great Britain Universe • William Hague • The Rylstone WI calendar

GENERAL PINOCHET

Opinions on the Home Secretary's decision to reaffirm the extradition to Spain of the former Chilean dictator

ABC Spain

Prospects have considerably improved for the former dictator to be extradited to Spain to be tried in our country for alleged crimes committed after December 1988. The immunity alleged by his defenders, based on the principle of territoriality of penal laws, appears to be shattered into fragments. It now remains to be decided whether Pinochet will continue to enjoy his privileged liberty under surveillance or, as the prosecution wants, whether he is jailed for the duration of the legal proceedings.

EVENING STANDARD

The Home Secretary has made the wrong decision, in allowing extradition proceedings to go ahead against former Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet. Pinochet is an evil old man who should never have been admitted to Britain. But successive governments having let him in not once, but repeatedly, it was outrageous to allow him to become the victim of extradition proceedings by an ambitious Spanish magistrate with an eye for publicity. The general himself is an evil old man. Some of his British supporters and fund-raisers shame this country by their scarcely-veiled fascist sympathies. But the general should have been sent home. Mr Straw has gratuitously embroiled us in a mare's nest.

DIARIO 16

AS WAS expected, Britain's Home AUGUSTO PINOCHET was a vile Secretary did not let himself be pressurised. Jack Straw decided to give the green light to the extradition of Augusto Pinochet to Spain for the ing trial for his horrendous crimes. crimes of torture and conspiracy to Jack Straw was absolutely right to torture of which Judge Baltasar Garzon accuses him. Neither the powerful lobby led by Margaret Thatcher nor support from the Thatcher If she doesn't like it, then Pope, the Dalai Lama or George Bush succeeded in bending the will she's welcome to join him wh finally kicked out of Britain.

of Mr Straw, who considered the crimes attributed to the bloody exdictator sufficiently grave to agree to Spain's demand. Further, the minister challenged those who argued that putting Pinochet on trial would endanger the democratisation process in Chile.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

SO OPEN is the Home Secretary's mind that he has evidently been able to put behind him his own past support for the Allende regime. Mr Straw does not deign to notice that Chile under the Pinochet regime was a friendly country, and has hitherto remained so. His open mind is unprejudiced by the fact that Gen Pinochet was here on behalf of Chile at the time of his arrest and was treated as a guest by Mr Straw's Government.

EL MUNDO Spain

THE SIGNIFICANCE of Mr Straw's decision is that it closes a stage of pressures and political manipulations and puts the case in the strictly juridical sphere. There was even speculation that Straw would expel Pinochet to Chile for humanitarian reasons, because of his poor health. But images of the General with his friend Margaret Thatcher showed that he was far from death's door and could stand trial in a perfectly normal way. The British minister understood that.

THE MIRROR

butcher. He tortured and murdered thousands of his own people in Chile. Now he is a step closer fackeep the wheels of justice in motion. Not everyone is pleased with the deshe's welcome to join him when he's

Where does the blame lie?

LE FIGARO France

IT HAS become clear, with the fall of innocent civilians beneath bombs and the failure of the strategy of surgical strikes, that the real war in Kosovo has only just begun. While waiting for political solutions. the West has no other choice but to maintain its objectives and continue with its line of combat. As the Provencal saving goes, "Once you've started to suffocate the cat. you've got to finish the job."

BORBA Yugoslavia

THE CRIMINAL bombing of the convoy of Kosmet Albanian children, women and elderly is another tragic confirmation of the fact that Nato-criminals are not protecting ethnic Albanians with the aggression on our country, but that they are trying to destroy and occupy Yugoslavia. Allegedly endangered rights of ethnic Albanians are only the smoke-screen for destroying and enslaving Yugoslavia, and ethnic Albanian terrorists only served them as a means to destabilise the country. Both innocent ethnic Albanians and terrorists, instead of potential Nato-vassals have become cannon fodder to Nato beasts.

EL MUNDO Spain

NATO IS genuinely confused and disoriented. The political objectives of the military campaign are totally unclear. It has become obvious that Nato power brokers are not capable of precisely defining their objectives. It has also become obvious that the generals themselves are not able precisely to hit targets in Yugoslavia - mostly civilians and civilian targets were the victims of such a foggy strategy, whose purpose and end are not in sight. Can anything be called victory when there is no definition of victory in the case of Yugoslavia?

OBSHCHAYA GAZETA

pacifist image is hypocritical and bogus - should allow the Kosovars to make their we said earlier. Whoever was responsible, Belgrade's advice.



CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN THE BALKANS

International comment on Nato's mistaken bombing of a convoy of ethnic Albanian refugees

only an extreme hypocrite could be indignant at the more or less accurate Nato air strikes, after we reduced Grozny to ruins. All we want is to be recognised as a "great power". The problem is our foreign policy style, and the national character and world view behind it. It is that of a former boss who has been sacked but cannot cope with his new, more modest role.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

NATO IS heartsick at even the possibility that its airplanes may have bombed defenceless civilians. Yet all wars are almost guaranteed to have so-called collateral damage against innocent people. No one should forget a basic point. Milosevic is responsible for displacing the refugees. If he were serious about avoiding such incidents, he would not have driven them from their homes. One can only hope that he has iearneo irom the weeks of domoing

way home peacefully. He has played cat and mouse with them long enough.

NEW YORK POST

IN THIS case it's necessary to ask how the refugees came to be on the road in the first place. The answer is: Milosevic. He created this crisis. And the aerial assault - as problematic as it may be strategically - is entirely his responsibility. The matter of Milosevic is not going to be resolved solely from the air. The sooner Clinton comes to terms with this, and begins to make ready the ground troops, the better.

HONG KONG STANDARD

THE CONFLICTING news and views on who fired on a refugee convoy killing and those who suffer most are civilians, the noncombatants trying to escape with their lives. It is well to remember that peace achieved by humiliating one side might not bring the lasting peace desired. It would be better if any mediation to bring about a settlement is done through or with the help of the UN. Any violations then can be dealt with through the world body, giving it a desirable legitimacy.

DERNIÈRES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE

HOW CAN we approve bombardments knowing that innocent civilians will suffer? But how can we accept what is unrolling in front of our eyes: massacres and mass deportations that recall the darkest hours of the Second World War? Destroying the Serbs' repressive machine is the priority. Sooner or later a new Congress of Berlin

MISS GREAT BRITAIN UNIVERSE

Views on the decision to dethrone Nicki Lane, Miss GB '99, following the discovery that she is a single mother

THE GUARDIAN

IT'S RUM how beauty queen contests for the past 30 years have developed the habit of bursting out of their infuriatingly gripping terrain to make us confront how utterly confused we are about changing social values. Was Nicki Lane's crime dissembling? Or the fact that, like almost a third of women having babies today, she had given birth out of wedlock? Her crowning achievement may yet rest not on the length of her leg and the size of her chest - but in showing just how far a teenage mother can come. (Yvonne Roberts)

THE SPECTATOR

APPARENTLY, WERE Nicki Lane's child the product of a legal marriage, the outcome would have been the same. This suggests that the organisers of beauty contests idealise not only the single state for women but also that of celibacy.

DER STANDARD

Austria

STRAITS TIMES

Singapore

RETIRINS!



difference, then, between beauty contestants and the Vestal Virgins of Ancient Rome. These women, who lived independently of men, enjoyed great respect, more so than wives. This is the answer for beauty contest organisers who find their occupation condemned by political correctness and

DAILY RECORD

WHEN IT comes to being Miss Great Britain '99, the accent is

still on the MISS. The pretence is that beauties are single and, er, virgin queens. As Miss GB learned, single mums definitely need not apply. Now, if I were a cynical type, I would say that a lone mother who had an underage baby and is making her way in the world on her looks is fairly representative of Miss GB '99. The national director claims the rules banning mothers and wives made 40 years ago "still have relevance today". Imposing such a pseudo-moral rule on a crassly commercial cattle-show qualifies him as Mr Hypocrite '99.

THE EXPRESS

THE OLD moral dilemmas of what is right or what is wrong are irrelevant in a society in a state of constant flux. What matters for everyone is finding a way that works. Nicki Lane's life did just that. She should be encouraged to get on with it. (Laura Kibby)

THE VIEWS OF THE WORLD

THE ECONOMIST

WILLIAM HAGUE

The British press considers the Tory Party and William Hague in the light of his re-launch

THE MIRROR

WILLIAM HAGUE re-launched EVIDENTLY HIS advisers think his political career yesterday but bizarrely barred most of the media from covering the event. If this was an attempt to avoid difficult questions from The Mirror or anyone else, he was disappointed. A pupil at the school he covertly visited asked him if the Tories were responsible for destroying British industry: Give that boy a gold star.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH

IN OPPOSITION, a party must "make the weather". It must, as Hague would put it, set people talking around the kitchen table. But voters are not, sadly. talking much about the Conservative Party or its leader. They might, if either were prepared to make some pledges. coherently assail the Government's mistakes and even take a few risks. After all, they have precious little left to lose.

DAILY MAIL

the greatest service Hague can do for the Tories is to stay away from the cameras. They seem to have come to the conclusion that the merest glimpse of him is enough to send voters scurrying to new Labour. Deeply unfair, of course. Hague is an excellent Parliamentary performer and quite capable of leaving Blair looking flat-footed. He would do better if he placed more trust in his own nononsense instincts. And less on his hapless advisers.

THE GUARDIAN

MR HAGUE is the modern Sisy phus, condemned to push a stone uphill in the knowledge that ... it will soon come rolling back... When Sisyphus went to work, that was the only possible outcome. It wasn't his fault any more than the desperate state of the Tory Party today is the fault of William Hague.

VERDENS GANG

Norway

Costa Rica

WORLD TRADE

THE RYLSTONE WI CALENDAR

Tabloid opinion on Rylstone Women's Institute's decision to strip off for their year 2000 calendar

THE EXPRESS

FROM SOMEONE who still looks round first before sunbathing topless, I've got to hand it to the ladies of the Rylstone WI in North Yorkshire for posing naked among the potted plants and pickles for a fundraising calendar. They've certainly showed a

lot of bottle or should that be bottled fruits? All shapes and sizes and aged between mid-10s and early 60s, the women got the idea when the photos they submitted were constantly turned down for the official Women's Institute calendar. which I gather still concentrates on what makes a good piccalilli rather than a good Pirelli. (Christa Ackroyd)

THE MIRROR

APPARENTLY, "LOTS of red wine" helped the middle-aged members of Rylstone and District Women's Institute to get their kit off for a charity calen-

dar. Is that all? The WI members I knew would have needed class A drugs to persuadė them to part with their knickers. Still, you've got to hand it to these Yorkshire ladies. They've certainly taken the tedium out of tapestry [and] the fustiness out of flower arranging and, I'm sure, Miss March will be raising much more than dough with her baking pictures. (Sue Carroll)

DAILY MAIL

THE WOMEN in this WI calendar won't give Cindy Crawford any night sweats, but looking at these photographs, you have to admire their nerve, obvious sense of humour and refusal to be ashamed of their bodies. The Rylstone WI ladies might have started a new trend: the "barefaced chic" look. Women everywhere will get together, think of a charity they want to support, get out the camera and whip off their clothes. (Cindy Blake)

MISCELLANEOUS

Stories from around the world

DAILY CALIFORNIAN

PROTESTERS MARCHED across the UC Berkeley campus for the second day yesterday, in their efforts to bolster

the ethnic studies program. Clapping and chanting. "Ethnic Studies under attack What do we do? Act up, fight back," the 200 demonstrators demanded more funding.

Protesters were informed that the dean was out to lunch and would not return and, as a result, began to chant, "We'll be back"

To ensure that the faculty members in the building knew that they would indeed be back. the protesters walked on every floor of the building up to the sixth floor, chanting phrases tival is much better behaved.

SHETLAND NEWS

bullshit's got to go".

like, "Hey hey, ho ho, this racist

THIS YEAR'S Up-Helly-Aa fire festival got under way early on Tuesday when Sigurd Hlodvisson, alias Guizer Jarl Davie Mathewson, and his 57-strong squad of fearsome vikings took to the streets of Lerwick Jarl's squad got prepared for the climax of Britain's largest remaining fire festival: the procession and the burning of the galley. In the 19th century, Lerwick's winter festival was often riotous. Special constables were called as folk were dragging a blazing tar barrel through the streets. Today's fes-

RESEARCH BY SALLY CHATTERTON

QUOTES OF THE WEEK



"Contrary to what boys think, girls are not always talking about sex. In fact. most of my girlfriends prefer to talk about gardening." Charlie Dimmock gardening programme presenter

"No longer will vegans have to suppress their natural instinct to make love not war." Richard Fairhall of the Vegan Society on the new animalcruelty-free condom

"Never go to bed with anyone crazier than yourself." Kris Kristofferson,

"Now is the time for a Bold Blair not a Tinkering Tony." The Duke of Buccleuch

actor

"In Yugoslavia, the Albanians shouldn't fear anyone, especially not the Serbs." Slobodan Milosevic's wife,

"I've never really thought of myself as an actress." Elizabeth Taylor, on receiving her BAFTA award

Mirjana Markovic

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Reference WI calendar

How I gave counsel to a double-glazing tycoon

and for £35 including flight, said the young man from Manchester, I turned down the potatoes (I was making supper when the phone rang) and sat down. "Sorry, I don't quite understand," I said. "Who are you and how did you get my number?" The young man said vaguely that he had been given it by a friend of a friend and that he worked for a large travel promotion organisation which got paid for sending people on holiday. "Pull the other one," I said. It had been a long day. "What's the catch? What are you really trying to sell me – doubleglazing, a new kitchen, a year's

supply of washing?" The young man from Manchester, whose name was Harvey, sounded hurt. There was no catch.

SEVEN NIGHTS at a five-star hotel of your choice, anywhere in Europe His company would be paid £1,500, the value of the holiday, if I decided to go to this five-star hotel anywhere in Europe, because of the possibility of repeat business. "Ah, now I get it," I said. "I have to book a second holiday for 1,500 quid in order to get the first one for 35."

"No, no, you don't understand." said Harvey. "I said there was no catch. Mark you, I do admit that 90 per cent of the people who take up our exciting offer enjoy themselves so much they book again. But the remaining 10 per cent - we call them 'goats' in the business - are under no obligation whatsoever."

"So I'm a goat, am I, Harvey?" I said tartly. "A goat? A what? No. no. I didn't say 'goat', I said 'ghost'." explained Harvey. "Sorry, I'm eating a toffee."

In the end I became quite fond



SUE ARNOLD

It was my toughest assignment ever - three days experiencing the sufferings of the rich

of Harvey. We bonded. When I told him that I wouldn't mind a holiday, as a matter of fact, but the only place I wanted to go to was Ja-

Jamaica. He'd have to charge me £68 all in but on the other hand his company would be paid £3,000 if I went on a long-haul. "As a matter of interest, may I be so bold as to enquire why you harbour a preference for that particular Caribbean destination?" asked Harvey. Without the toffee he was a wellspoken lad.

Well Harvey, I began, it's a long story but I'll try to keep it brief. Last summer I was sent on one of my toughest assignments ever - the opening of a new luxury resort hotel in the Bahamas, where for three days in Nassau I experienced firsthand the sufferings of the seriously rich in the shape of one particular guest, a Mr Mikey Windows. double-glazing tycoon from New Jersey. Mr Windows, like many of

maica, he said no prob. He could do the other guests, wore a slender kids there. But I don't wanna spend tically next to each other in Jamchain round his neck from which nung a tiny pair of golden sandals. The hotel was part of the Sandals chain. The necklace confirmed that the wearer had had at least 10 holidays at a Sandals resort.

Mr Windows and I met on the terrace of one of the hotel's nine restaurants, where he was gloomily demolishing his third lobster. "Here's my problem, see. We got this six-year-old kid. Sandals don't take kids, just couples. So Ramona, my wife, says. 'OK, we'll go some place else'. But like I don't wanna go no place else. I dig Sandals. So we come to Sandals and the kid goes to camp but, like, she misses her parents. I guess it's natural, Then someone says, hey Mikey. Sandals gotta family hotel called

people's kids. It's a problem."

To console himself he ordered another lobster, and I mused fleetingly on what you would get to wear round your neck if you had had 10 Beaches holidays "I suppose the answer would be to find adjacent hotels where you and your wife could stay in the couples only, and your child and a minder could stay in the other, with everyone meeting by mutual agreement and on mutual territory," I suggested, relishing my unlikely role as a millionaire's counsellor. "I like it. It's neat. OK, you got the job," said Mr Windows. What job? Why, the New-Jersey Double-Glazing Tycoon's Kid's Minder job, silly.

There are, I am reliably in-formed, Sandals and Beaches prac-

a week surrounded by other aica I am sure they are terrific but being cautious I prefer to test the water before taking the plunge. "I see where you are coming from," said Harvey. "Tell you what, I'll give you your membership number, you'll be sent the information pack tomorrow and the presentation is in Watford next week. Or would you prefer Reigate?"

Membership? Presentation? eigate? What on earth was he talking about. "Time-share, that's what," said my husband drily. "I bet you anything. It's a hard sell to get you to buy a week in November in some God-forsaken Portuguese new town over the next 20 years." "Not if I don't want to. I can just take the holiday, remember. I'm a goat, sorry, I mean a ghost." "We'll see," said my husband. Watch this space.

THE SATURDAY PROFILE

ROMANO PRODI, PRESIDENT ELECT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Agentleman among thieves

ROMANO PRODI, the man charged with the feat of qualifying Italy for the single ambitious. In his speech to the European delicate task of rescuing the European European currency against the odds - his Commission from ignominy and corruption, did two unusual things this week. Both were meant as harbingers of better, fresher things to come, for Europe and its leadership. Neither, however, quite worked out as the next president of the European Commission might have hoped. The first was Monday's visit by Mr Prodi to his friend ony Blair in London. True to the down-Tt-home style already familiar to the electorate in his native Italy, Mr Prodi chose to turn his back on the executive jets and limousines associated with high office and opted instead for a commercial airline a long career in academia and public-sector

and the Gatwick Express. The gesture was well taken, except that Mr Prodi inadvertently failed to obtain a valid ticket for the train journey and ended up paying a fine. And when his taxi from Victoria Station drew up outside the gates to Downing Street, he couldn't persuade the security guards to let the car through and he was forced to make the last short stretch of his journey on foot.

The second unusual thing was Mr Prodi's declared intention to run for a seat in the European parliament in this June's elections. True, he acknowledged, no previous Commission president had aspired to elective office before. On the other hand, nothing in the Commission's rule-book forbade him from standing and, besides, it would be a fine symbol of his intention to make Europe's institutions more democratic.

QUOTESOF

THE WEEK

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Once again, the gesture proved grander than the practicalities. After listening to the advice of both Mr Blair and the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, Mr Prodi promptly changed his mind and announced in a speech before the European parliament on Tuesday that he wouldn't be standing after all.

Depending on your point of view, such episodes either underline Mr Prodi's unpretentious, endlessly accommodating nature, or else they show up him up as a rather bumbling political operator, more in love with generating ideas than able to put them effectively into practice.

As he prepares to move into the European hot seat for the next five years, it is the extent of his political skills that remains most open to question. Nobody doubts his professional capacities, since he has long been regarded as one of Italy's foremost economic thinkers, or the appeal of his avuncular personality. Even in the snake-pit of Roman politics, Mr Prodi was always considered by the bitterest of his rivals to be the perfect gentleman.

As a politician, though, he is still something of a tyro. Throughout his two years and five months as Italy's prime minister. friends and rivals alike expected him to fall victim to the Byzantine swirls of his country's political intrigues at any minute, and ascribed his resilience as much to luck as to true tactical acuteness.

If he pulled off the genuinely impressive

single greatest claim to the Brussels job, and to posterity - it was certainly not without heart-stopping moments when the whole project was teetering on the verge of collapse. One Italian deputy compared him to Moses, destined to perish before he could even reach the promised land.

Mr Prodi makes no secret that the backroom conniving and soundbite culture of modern politics do not come easily to him. True, he likes to play on the fact that he is a relative newcomer to politics - he only stepped into the arena four years ago after management - and deliberately plays up his image as a kindly professor with a hearty laugh and a fondness for mountain-

Life Story

Origins: Born 9 August 1939, in Scandiano, a village in Reggio Emilia province near Bologna Family: Prodi is the eighth of nine children

Career: professor of economics at Bologna University, founder of the Nomisma economic research institute; minister of industry 1978-79; head of IRI. Italy's state holding company, 1981-89 and again 1991-92; Italian prime minister and leader of the Olive Tree centre-left coalition 1996-98 Likes: Bolognese food, mountainbiking, public transport Dislikes: Television interviews. Massimo D'Alema (his successor as

prime minister) Appropriate symbol: The donkey. representing his new movement, I Democratici. It looks amiable enough, but it also has a sharp kick

He says: "The point is to be simple, not stupid." Critics say: "Mortadella with a human face" (the Italian columnist Giuliano Ferrara, mocking Prodi's

amiable good nature as well as his chubby physique)

times the gaffes have been for real, and the jury is still out on whether he has learnt to play the system and win, or whether he has simply clung on by the seat of his pants.

As with the man, so too with his new job. Mr Prodi is the first to admit that the European Union suffers from a similar imbalance to that of his own. It is, as the cliché goes, an economic giant and a political dwarf, a situation that Mr Prodi is now determined to correct, particularly with the security of the continent sorely challenged by the Kosovo crisis and the spectre of continuing unrest in the Balkans as a whole.

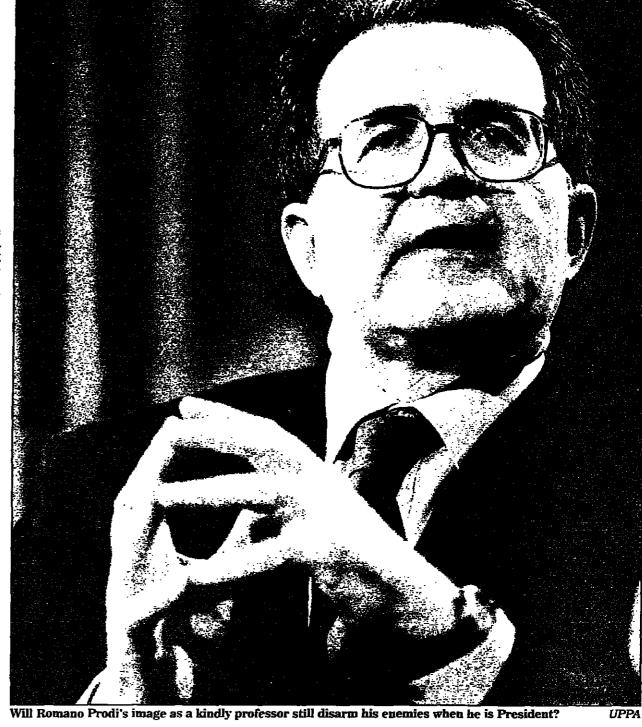
parliament he vowed to make enlargement of the EU a reality, along with developing a common defence and security policy. He would like to see a stronger European executive, with new powers enabling the president to appoint or dismiss his commissioners, but also a more accountable one, with a better system of checks and balances between the commission, the European parliament and national legislative bodies.

In some respects he has centralising instincts - be would like better to co-ordinate tax policy across the Union, and also implement welfare reforms to make the European labour market more competitive. But he also believes in devolving decisions to local level. turning "subsidiarity" into a individual countries to defend their parochial interests. In short - and this has already got him into trouble with the Tory press in this country - he believes in a Europe in which the concept of the nation state will slowly dissolve in favour of a common Continental vision invigorated by a strong sense of regional diversity.

The very fact that an Italian is in a position to lay out this sort of blueprint for the future - let alone come to the rescue of a Commission bogged down by cronyism and rudderless leadership - is remarkable in itself. Not so long ago, Italy was being written off as the EU's joke country, with runaway public finances, a chronically unstable political system mired deep in corruption, a sclerotic public administration and a baronial system of economic and financial power that had barely advanced beyond the Middle Ages.

Having made considerable headway in improving that image, how qualified is Mr Prodi to deliver on his package for Europe? Philosophically, he is certainly the right man, a liberal Christian Democrat who wears his religion as a badge of commitment to social causes, not of an evangelical mission. He is both sufficiently left-leaning to fit into Europe's current political mood, and cautious enough to reassure bankers, investment gurus and policy analysts. His experience also stands him in good stead: an international economist with stints at both Harvard and the LSE to his name, he has made influential friends across the world through Nomisma, his Bologna-based economic research consultancy. He has wide experience of both small businesses and giant state holdings - the latter thanks to his long stint at the head of Italy's nationalised industries

in the Eighties and early Nineties. For years, his great talent was avoiding Italian political intrigue and the corruption that came with it. That was what made Mr Prodi seem such a providential figure when, in the chaotic aftermath of the collapse of Italy's venal old order in 1992. a realigned centre left turned to him to lead them to victory over the conservative Mr Prodi's plans are nothing if not media mogul Silvio Berlusconi. In



accepting the challenge, Mr Prodi deliberately eschewed Mr Berlusconi's slick television manner and took his message direct to the people on a battered secondhand tourist bus. His owlish manner and his soft, murmuring delivery did not make him the most charismatic of figures, but his sincerity and obvious intelligence struck a chord. "A terrible candidate who promises to be a good leader." was how one newspaper columnist characterised him at the time of the April 1996 elections, and the country clearly agreed.

From the moment his Olive Tree coalition won power, however, he was beset by enemies on all fronts. His parliamentary majority depended on the votes of the small, far-left party Rifondazione Comunista, which threatened on numerous occasions to bring him down for the sake of radical-chic political correctness and stalled virtually every attempt at legislative reform. In Europe, meanwhile, he had to face the hostility of Germany's then finance minister. Theo Waigel, who was dead set against Italian participation in the euro for fear that the whole project

would be destabilised from the beginning. In his first few months in office, Mr Prodi hoped to be able to delay Italian entry into the single currency by a year or two. It was don him and his chief sponsor, the main left-

only when he realised that Spain was gunning for immediate admittance that he changed his mind, tearing up his 1997 budget plan overnight and starting again with a far tougher one that was to make the crucial difference.

Mr Prodi's European partners began to sit up and take notice, and they were forced to applaud again a few months later when Italy, rebuffed by Nato and the UN, led an ad hoc international peacekeeping force into Albania and restored both democratic government and a modicum of stability after a massive financial scam and a violent anti-government uprising had threatened terminal chaos.

In other areas, however, Mr Prodi was far less successful. He and his parliamentary peers failed to stabilise Italy's revolving-door political system, failed to defuse the politically explosive issue of broadcasting rights and failed to modernise key state-owned industries, including Telecom Italia, before selling them off.

The longer his government persisted, the stronger the pressures on him grew and the less he managed to get done. Rifondazione Comunista tried to bring him down at least once a year, his coalition partners were forever threatening to aban-

wing party leader Massimo D'Alema, eyed his job with increasing envy.

It was Mr D'Alema who quietly orchestrated Mr Prodi's downfall last autumn, encouraging Rifondazione to torpedo his 1999 budget and so forcing his resignation. Mr Prodi did not help himself by calling a confidence vote he thought he could win but did not - a questionable piece of political judgement compounded by his decision to try to wreak revenge on Mr D'Alema by stealing a handful of moderate deputies from the governing coalition and setting up a new party called I Democratici.

Mr Prodi's appointment to the European Commission is, in part, a brilliant ruse by Mr D'Alema to kick him off the domestic political scene. Mr Prodi's hesitation whether or not to run in the European elections is, in part, a response to that.

Temperamentally, he is clearly better suited to the challenges of defining Europe's future and managing the complexities of monetary union than to floundering in the political quagmires back at home. Time will tell whether his Italian experiences have made him a tougher political operator, or whether his achievements will once again fall somewhat short of his considerable aspirations.

ANDREW GUMBEL

mortis - is redolent of those British Dictionary of Film. Hawkins and the war cinema of the Fifties did indeed agive the stiff upper lip and British phlegm a bad name. Should they wish to glean a more poetic understanding of the British in the Forties. however, historians of 50 years hence would be better employed visiting the movies of Michael Powell.

Powell, with his writing partner, the Hungarian émigre Emeric Pressburger, came into his own during the Second World War - and his 49th Parallel (German U-boat

"JACK HAWKINS'S trembling stiff Canada and try to make their escape upper lip - a grotesque struggle across land to the neutral US) was between emotionalism and rigor a subtle, intelligent piece of propaganda. It was also a template for war films of the Fifties," writes Powell's concept of Anglo-Saxon David Thomson in A Biographical attitudes, making clear why Britain was standing alone.

Certainly Powell's Englishness was more romantic, pastoral and witty than that of any other filmmaker. Whether it was shared by the population at large is debatable. However, in his bones he understood the mystical and superstitious undercurrents of this island race and found a steady source of inspiration

in our history and landscape. Brought up in the Kentish countryside, he had a lyrical rapport with what the French call "patro-

ACCIDENTAL HEROES OF THE 20TH CENTURY

36: MICHAEL POWELL, FILM DIRECTOR

Seotland U Know Where I'm Going), Shropshire (Gone to Earth) or Kent (A Canterbury Tale), Powell's regional depictions rang true. He was the truest poet of a sort of Englishness - what David Thomson calls "High Tory" Englishness that the cinema has yet produced.

Even the most minor of his characters is alive with wit and personality. Powell the artist gloried in crew are sunk off the coast of nomie". Whether it be the islands of human idiosyncrasies - and his

enemies were the boorishly rich (Wendy Hiller's fiance in I Know: Where I'm Going), the higoted (Eric Portman's Nazi U-boat captain in 49th Parallel) and the officious (the justice of the peace in A Canterbury Tale: - but never one-dimensional. Anton Walbrook's Colonel Blimp supposedly a study in anachronistic martial attitudes - was probably more sympathetic and colourful

than Powell intended.

It all ended very suddenly, of course, with the embarrassed finality of someone vomiting over his mother in-law. Powell and Pressburger, who had forged an unparalleled freedom of expression with their production company The Archers, simply went too far, according to their critics.

Peeping Tom. made in 1960, was in a its way a cinematic landmark of the magnitude of Hitchcock's Psycho or Tobe Hooper's Texas Chainsau Massacre. But this dark. sly comment on the nature of yet devious, magical in the resolute voyeurism was too far ahead of its time for most people, and Powell was cast into a wilderness (well. Australia). His art lived on, however, and

in the strangest of places. Take the Brooklyn of the Fifties.

for example, where a frail, bored child by the name of Martin Scorsese was killing time watching old movies on afternoon television. The young Scorsese fed on Powell's colourful anti-realist imagination - a debt he repaid later when adopting the now largely forgotten filmmaker. According to David Thomson, Powell became a "treasured Merlin

in the court of Scorsese". "I do not invoke the figure of Merlin lightly," wrote Thomson, "Powell was English but Celtic, sublime

certainty that imagination rules." Powell also married Scorsese's long-term editor, Thelma Schoonmaker, creating a marital as well as artistic link that led from Peeping Tom to Taxi Driver.



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KEITH

And a very happy Vaisakhi to you!

THERE HAVE been two television documentaries, a radio documentary and a gaggle of Thought for the Days to mark the event. There is an exhibition of Sikh art at the V&A, Next week will see a huge Sikh celebration at the Albert Hall, to be attended by the Prince of Wales, Jack Straw and William Hague. All of a sudden, Sikhs are four-square on the British map.

The occasion for this week's outpouring of Sikhness is the 300th anniversary of Khalsa - in effect, the founding of an organised Sikh religion. On Vaisakhi (New Year), 13 April 1699, the 10th and last of a series of gurus. Gobind Singh. baptised Sikhs into a new fraternity. the Khalsa - the Pure.

In Southall, west London, the Sikh capital of Britain, the celebratory bunting is out. Tens of thousands marched in a Vaisakhi procession last weekend, and there will be another march tomorrow. Even the graffitists are joining in. The walls in Southall declare: "Happy Vaisakhi!", and posters advertise a forthcoming Vaisakhi Nite. In the Glassy Junction pub, near the biggest gurdwara, or temple, in Southall, the barman is wearing a 300th Khalsa anniversary shirt.

It is logical that this anniversary – "a Sikh millennium", as one worshipper describes it - should be a major event for the Sikhs. But the British interest in such anniversaries is something new. As the 21st century approaches, different religious traditions are beginning to be seen as part of the patchwork of modern Britain itself.

Thirty years ago, when Enoch

things looked very different. In 1969, Sikhs celebrated the 500th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak - the first of the 10 great gurus and the founder of the Sikh religion itself. For Sikhs, that anniversary was even bigger than this week's celebrations. It was, however, "almost invisible", according to Indarjit Singh, editor of the Sikh Messenger and director of the Network of Sikh Organisations.

"There has been tremendous adjustment," he observes. "Britain used to be very Christian-centric. Now, British society is more comfortable - more questioning, inquisitive about other things."

Sikhs like to quote two statistics, which contradict and complement one another. Sikhs were proportionately over-represented in Britain's Indian army: many Sikhs died fighting as part of the British forces in the First and Second World Wars. Equally, Sikhs were highly active in the independence struggle against Britain. Of 119 people who were hanged by the British for fighting for independence, 87 were Sikhs.

One obvious reason for increased Sikh resistance to colonial rule was the Amritsar massacre in 1919, by General Dyer and his troops. Following that bloodshed it was perhaps not surprising that Sikh loyalties were no longer what they

In more recent years, the 1984 storming by Indian troops of the Golden Temple in Amritsar - the Sikhs' holiest shrine - has left deep scars. The Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two of her Sikh bodyguards just a few months later. That murder, in turn, in which 2,000 died in Delhi alone.

In a familiar pattern, the oppression of ordinary Sikhs created radicalism even where there had been none before. The attack on the Golden Temple was intended to deal with the violent Sikh radical Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale (who died in the assault). But the violent striving for an independent Sikh state, Khalistan - a movement that he had spearheaded - was partly strengthened by the perceived sacrilege of the Amritsar attack, and the officially encouraged violence against Sikhs after the assassination Mrs Gandhi.

Sikhism is an odd mixture of warrior religion and peacefulness. Above all. Sikhs see themselves as warriors on behalf of the underdog hence the name Singh, which every Sikh man bears, meaning "lion". Information displays for Vaisakhi at a temple in Wandsworth, south London, are typical in their gory tone. They include long series of tableaux describing Sikh history, where "the Muslim" is accused of all manner of foul deeds: "The toddler's heart and liver is forcibly put into his mouth" and "Father and son are ordered to be crushed on the wheel.

Despite this Balkan grisliness. tolerance is still the official doctrine. Sikhism emphasises its communality. Every temple has its own kitchen and canteen, where huge crowds gather. At Southall, marquees have been erected to allow thousands to gather for meals. Rich and poor alike can eat as much as they like, as often as they like. The shared eating, on equal terms, is a Powell was in his growling heyday, was followed by anti-Sikh violence deliberate blurring of caste. "Here,

Their crime: not embracing Islam!"

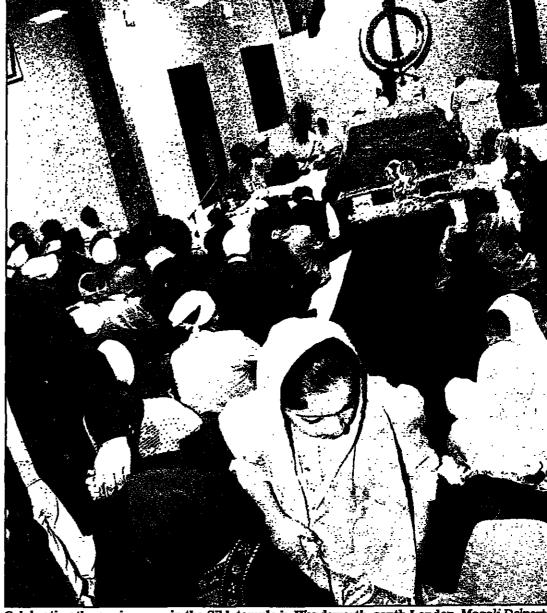
table. We don't have one table which is full, and one which is empty."

Guru Nanak Dev's original philosophy for the Sikhs ("disciples" or "seekers of truth") takes as its starting-point the idea that no one religion should be able to override another. Sikhism was created as a "third way", apart from the older religions of Hinduism and Islam which has meant that it has sometimes seemed to be no way at all.

Guru Nanak famously declared: There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim" - in other words, Sikhism draws on the traditions of both, so that it sometimes is subsumed. Some years ago. Indarjit Singh found that his newspaper crossword contained a clue: "Punjabi Hindu". The answer was: "Sikh" When he complained, the compilers retorted that the definition had

come from the English dictionary. Newer dictionary definitions give Sikhism as a "north Indian sect". Britain has in recent years gone one step further, including Sikhism as one of the six main religions to be taught in schools, alongside Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. Now every British schoolchild learns about the five Ks of Sikhs - including kesa thair), kangha (comb) and kirpan (sword). Of these, it is, of course, the hair that is the most important - the famous beard and turban which are compulsory for the devout.

Devoutness and violence still sometimes overlap. Sikh terrorism - bombing and murder, to advance the cause of an independent Khalistan - has spilled over into



Celebrating the anniversary in the Sikh temple in Wandsworth, south London Magali Delporte

India and abroad, however, the support for violence has declined. "I'd like an independent Khalistan - but at what cost?" is a typical comment from a worshipper in Southall.

Leaving peaceful and violent politics aside, the most obvious division is between the generations especially visible in the Sikh community. Many young Sikhs feel torn by the different pressures to conform. A Manchester student, returning to his home gurdwara in Wandsworth, is clean-shaven and

from top to toe. He wanted to come statement of loyalty - but it's a for the Vaisakhi ceremony, and yet: clear statement, for all that. "I feel that I've deviated. That I'm a social deviant."

Other young Sikhs get round the problem of dual identity in a different way. A group of young Sikhs in Southall make it clear that they feel little affinity with the religious aspects of Sikhism. None of them is hairy or turbaned. And yet, all of them are wearing the saffron colours of Sikhism - an orange Moschino shirt, an orange polo shirt, Britain in recent years. Both in dressed in un-Sikh fashion-black an orange T-shirt. It is an oblique

Two of the group are wearing saffron arm bands, from a piece of material that would normally be a head-covering. The arm bands are half rebellion, half not, "It's not religious. The arm band is fashion. We don't practise. But we like to feel we are Sikhs. We have respect - it's inside yourself."

That self-respect goes together with respect from the outside, too.

STEVE CRAWSHAW

THE WEEKLY MUSE

BY MARTIN NEWELL



A change of wind, some icy rain. The blossom perished on the tree, Dame Winter out of bed again -The mean old crone won't let you be.

With all this trouble in the world, Diplomacy in disarray, Disastrous and discordant times When all that we can do is pray. There comes a diamond from the dung, A ray of hope to light our way, And this week's gleaming beacon is Prince William's finger. It's OK! Since fractured in a rugby match The digit hadn't been quite right. But thanks to recent surgery The world can sleep again at night -Apart from minor niggles like The people with no food to eat, The climate changes, various wars. Oh yes, and Margaret's scalded feet.

A scheduled flight, a train, a cab -He walks the rest to Number 10. Who is this brand-new Euro-broom That sweeps as cheap as normal men And spurns the chauffeured limo where His erstwhile colleagues liked to sit? Romano Prodi - crazy name. It's not the last we'll hear of it.

Feng shui for dogs? We learn this week Psychologists of late have found That strays will be adopted if You change their kennel décor round. What changes, though, must we apply To cure our own indecorous dog Of nadgering his private parts And drinking daily from the bog?

The ladies of the WI At Rylstone have their charms With a rich autumnal rondeur To their shoulders, hips and arms And the modest flush at sundown Of septembral northern girls Who for charity's sweet reasons Pose in nowt but hats and pearls. As Miss March makes cake-mix naked, With a sunflower sits Miss May. And "Jerusalem" and jampot Seem a million miles away...

So how about some naked poets? A calendar - d'you think we should? John Hegley, Newell and Cooper Clarke? No. Somehow didn't think you would.

THE WEASEL

In which I search in vain for peace at the Imperial War Museum, find fault with film-makers and lose my shirt at the Grand National

THOUGH THE late Bunny Roger famously touched up his mascara in the trenches and went over the top carrying a furled copy of Vogue, I was nevertheless surprised to find the Imperial War Museum shop selling Eyelure Fashion Lashes ("All you need to be eyecatchingly gorgeous") at \$3.55 a pair. On the bookshelves, there were further incongruous juxtapositions - Schiaparelli Fashion Review was cheek by jowl with Liddell Hart's History of the First World War, while Bayonet Warfare in the 20th Century rubbed dust-jackets with Come By Sunday: The Fabulous Ruined Life of Diana Dors.

In case you're worried that the Imperial War Museum has been occupied by an invading force of garçons de Nancy. perhaps I should explain that these unlikely intrusions are souvenirs of the new exhibition. From the Bomb to The Beatles. Mind you, not every memento is frivolous frippery, I was tempted to buy Mrs W a Morphy-Richards electric iron (£22), but I feared that such a sentimental gesture might ignite hostilities in Weasel Villas.

These are from the old days Grandad's time," a young father told his squabbling offspring as we stared at the first display in the exhibition, a room filled with utility furniture. It was pretty much like a flat which I shared for 10 years, even down to the mysterious grid of Littlewood's Pools lying on a moquette armchair. Feeling my age. I peered at a display of post-war cuisine and was may harbour happy memories of Sausage Nuts, Macaroni Fish and Turkish Herrings, I am pleased to say that I never encountered the gruesome recipes suggested by the Ministry of Food to eke out supplies in the age of austerity.

Aside from an ominous room devoted to the nuclear threat (it includes a useful tip from the Ministry of Civil Defence in 1959: "Contaminated clothing can be cleaned to a very considerable extent by means of an efficient household vacuum cleaner"), the exhibition is mainly made up of the valuable oddities that everyone hopes to find in their attic. Legendary moments of sporting triumph are commemorated by two gnarled cricket balls, a tar-



bled addition reads: "Remember – no sig tune.' Some may wish the exhibition organisers had obeyed the same injunction. The section devoted to the Forties echoes to both the sound-track of Brief Encounter (Celia Johnson witters. "I couldn't possi-blah") and hits of the era. Sir Noel Coward chirrups an ironic ditty slightly mollified. Though some called "Don't Make Fun of the Festival of Britain" over a display devoted to that charming festivity. To evoke the spirit of the Fifties. Danny Kave vodels "Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen". A juke-box churns out the tunes that inspired the Aldermaston marchers of the early Sixties. The accompaniment was provided by that arch-firebrand Acker Bilk. In the Imperial War Museum.

hospital... She's dead." A scrib-

AFTER HE was overlooked by the Oscars, I was pleased that Peter Weir won a Bafta award for his direction of The Trumun Show. An intelligent and offbeat work, it concerns the secret filming of an individual who becomes the star of

حكدا من الأجل

peace is far from peaceful.

an immensely popular soap opera. However, I was struck by a minor blemish. About a third of the way through, a boom microphone bobs into view in Truman's kitchen. Nothing so special about that. In Stephen Frears's film noir The Grifters. the boom mike is continually in and out of shot like a yo-yo. As defects go, it scarcely compares with the Norse warrior who wears a Rolex in The Vikings or the way that two door panels are destroyed in The Shining though Jack Nicholson axes only one. I wouldn't mention the bobbing microphone in The Truman Show at all, except for the fact

that this is probably the only

film that could explain away its appearance as part of the narrative. But I don't think it does. A PALL was cast over Weasel Villas when we lost our collective shirt on the Grand National last Saturday. Oddly enough, this is the one occasion when Mrs W lays claim to anything in the way of female intuition. She says she can always nap the winner of the National. It should be a remunerative gift, but somehow it never turns out

that way. Annoyingly, my spouse says her gift only works if she doesn't bet on the race.

A few years ago, however, she picked the winner when we were actually at Aintree, though the winnings on a £2.50 each way bet scarcely put us in the clover. This year I pressed her for

a tip before the race began. She made her choice and I trotted round to the bookies. Twenty quid each way might not be much to those who can understand the gibberish spouted by McCririck but I felt to be among the highest of high rollers when I emerged from Ladbroke's.

So what happened? As the winners romped home, Mrs Ws nag was nowhere to be seen. "Can't be helped." I said through gritted teeth. Oddly enough, she didn't appear in the least dismayed, but positively beamed at the TV screen. "See, I always know."

"But you haven't won this time." I seethed. "I knew that Bobbyjo was the

"So, why did we plonk our all on Fiddling the Facts?" "I told you Bobbyjo but you said it was carrying too much weight," she said, still inexplicably pleased with herself. "I knew it was going to romp

THE CRITICS were right about

home. Queer horses, women.

C: Because Cowards Get Cancer Too by John Diamond, just out in paperback from Vermilion (£6.99). Coolly observing the ebb and flow of his his battle against cancer, Mr Diamond has produced a wonderfully readable piece of journalism, its intolerable subject illuminated by flashes of wry humour. Anyone in his state who writes that cancerous cells are "glamorous and successful", compared to the "plodding drones" that are non-cancerous cells, is a bit of a hero. The book is excellent in every respect - except for the staggeringly crass selfpromotion of his publisher. A line on the book cover reads: "Choose Vermilion because your health and well-being really matter." I doubt if John Diamond, of

all people,

façt.

needs to be

reminded

HENRY JAMES, novelist, writes to a friend from Venice, explaining that he now writes his novels by dictation:

wrist, which is a combination of native imbecility and acquired rheumatism, but which is also what is called a blessing in disguise; inasmuch as it has made me renounce for ever the manual act, which I hate with all the hatred of a natural inaptitude, and have renounced for ever, to devote myself in every particular to dictation. The latter does not hamper me at all: in letters, quite the reverse, and in commerce with the Muse, so little that I foresee the day when it will be a pure huxury."

> TOM DRIBERG. Labour MP, writes in his diary:

"As I discovered again at Wormwood Scrubs this evening, a prison audience is one of the best to talk to responsive, quick-witted, asking questions a good deal more intelligent than those asked at many meetings. A special form of accident-proneness afflicts prison lecturers: like bread falling on the carpet butter downwards, they constantly find their tongues forming phrases or alluding to subjects which might be considered tactless. Thus discussing the Budget, I found myself inadvertently referring to subsidies as 'a relatively simple method of redistributing wealth'. There was a slight frisson in the audience. I hesitated, decided to risk it, and added parenthetically: 'No doubt other

IAN IRVINE

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20 APRIL 1960

VLADIMIR NABOKOV. novelist, writes to his literary agent

"I am informed that a French motion picture company is about to make a picture called The Nymphets. The use of this title is an infringement of rights since this term was invented by me for the main character in my novel Lolita and has now become completely synonymous with Lolita [pictured, from the latest film version] in the minds of readers throughout the world. In other words, any title with the term 'nymphet' in it would naturally and inevitably suggest Lolita whether she is named or not. Could you please find out the name and address of the French company in question. It is my intention to sue without delay."

20 APRIL 1897

"As for my general benefit, don't pity me for my lame

23 APRIL 1952

methods will occur to some of you... I am glad to say

THE SATURDAY ESSAY

If only the devil did make work for idle hands...

KEITH **THOMAS**

Samuel Pepys is one of an infinity of people who have found in the workplace solace for a frustrating life at home

WORK IS harder to define than one might think. The Concise Oxford Dictionary informs us that work is "expenditure of energy, striving, application of effort or exertion to a purpose". However, there are many ways of purposively expending energy that do not count as "work". In the late 17th century the scientist Robert Boyle remarked that "tennis, which our gallants make a recreation, is much more toilsome than what many others make their work". Two hundred years later the philosopher John Stuart Mill observed that "many a day spent in killing game includes more muscular fatigue than a day's ploughing".

In the end, however, we have to recognise that the definition of work is not an objective matter. The term's different meanings embody different phases of historical development and different political viewpoints. Just as the male economists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were reluctant to accept that unpaid housework was really work, preferring to classify it as an "unproductive" activity, so modern radicals are disinclined to accept that the Queen is working when she gives a garden party. In the era of the Reformation. Protestants de-not red monks as idle parasites: for them, the contemplative life could not count as work. In North America the early English colonists lamented the idleness of the native Americans, who were warriors and hunters; as the English settlers saw it, it was only the women who were engaged in real work - that is, agriculture.

Business people and manual workers have always been sceptical about the existence of such a thing as intellectual work. When I was a schoolboy studying for examinations, my father, a farmer, understandably refused to concede that, when I was sitting on a deckchair in the garden reading a book rather than helping him in the cornfields with the harvest. I might be working as hard as he was.

The raised feminist consciousness of recent times has rightly made us more ready to classify unpaid housework and childcare as work - real work - than we used to be; and the Society of Authors would no doubt maintain that writing poetry is real work too. However, is a businessman working when he takes a client to an expensive restaurant? Or when he plays golf in order to clinch a deal at the 19th hole? In today's world, work and leir re are much more sharply segregated the . they used to be, but the line is still not

easy to draw. On the one hand, work has, since time immemorial, been seen as a curse, a result of the Fall and a punishment for sin. It was something that, it was assumed. everyone would naturally try to avoid. whether they were "savages" lounging in the tropical sun or European aristocrats pursuing an existence of conspicuous leisure. The ideal society was a land of Cockaigne, where all things came by nature and the need to work had vanished.

On the other hand, work was widely admired as a divine activity, practised by God during the creation of the world and by Adam and Eve in Eden. It was a sacred duty and the source of all human comforts. creating wealth and making civilisation possible. It was a cure for boredom and lancholy and a remedy for vice. It was in only sure route to human happiness. bringing health, contentment and personal Autilment. It structured the day, gave opportunities for sociability and companionship, fostered pride in individual creativity and created a sense of personal identity. Idleness could never make people happy; and the ideal society was one in which there was satisfying work available for everybody.



Ford Madox Brown's 'Work' (1863): it was the Victorians who introduced the idea of work as a liberating activity

The classical economists took the first of these two views. Adam Smith agreed with Dr Johnson that every man was naturally an idler. It was axiomatic that human beings preferred leisure to work. Labour meant "toil and trouble". It was undertaken only for the sake of remuneration, what in North America is still revealingly referred to as "compensation". The object of working was to acquire wealth, and the object of wealth was to

avoid having to work. The labouring classes, it was said, worked only out of necessity: to avoid starvation or to acquire additional goods that they coveted for their practical utility or as a means of keeping ahead of their neighbours. Without either stick or carrot, the inertial force of human indolence would be sure to reassert itself.

The native peoples in the overseas colonies were cited as further proof of this natural inclination to idleness. John Stuart Mill thought that the only way to "civilise" such people, that is to say, to make them take up a life of unrelenting toil, was to inculcate them "with new wants and desires". Otherwise, human nature being what it was, they would be idle. Mill's own upbringing this father allowed him no holidays, "lest the habit of work should be broken and a taste (or idleness acquired") had reflected this same belief that laziness was an innate and deep-seated urge, to which, without the most strenuous application, the human animal would invariably succumb.

This view of work as inherently repugnant went back to antiquity, The warrior societies of the past had, like the native Americans, thought fighting preferable to working, just as the classical moralists preferred otium (leisure) to negotium (business). Physical labour was the business of slaves, women and the subordinate classes. When the Benedictine monks of the early Middle Ages engaged in manual labour, they did so in a penitential spirit: work was an ascetic mortification of the flesh; the ideal life was one of piety and contemplation. The French word travail supposedly derived from trepatium, an instrument of torture; and the travails of childbirth recalled the curse that associated all forms of labour with pain.

In the 12th and 13th centuries European theologians gave work a more positive status, stressing its social and moral benefits and repeating St Benedict's observation that idleness was the enemy of the soul. But they did not represent work as innately satisfying. Neither did the many proponents of the work ethic who emerged in the late medieval and early modern periods.

In the modern industrial world most people have continued to regard work as a tedious necessity. "Why does the worker work?" asked Friedrich Engels in 1844. "For love of work? From a natural impulse? Not at all! He works for money, for a thing which has nothing to do with the work itself." This proposition is wholly consistent with the more recent findings of the sociologist John Goldthorpe. In a study of the car workers of Luton, Bedfordshire, in the Sixties, he found that their attitude to work was instrumental: it was a means to an end, a temporary surrender of liberty for the sake of material reward.

Among the managerial classes today there are many who find work stressful and view the workplace as a combative arena in which human beings strive aggressively for money and status. "Oh, to get out of the rat race," they say, Nowadays millions of people speak about their work in this way. They do it, they say, only for the money; and they would give it up tomorrow if they could afford to do so. Meanwhile they look to their private life and their recreations for their pleasures, their fulfilment and their sense of identity.

Yet it is well known that not all of those who come into an unexpected fortune immediately give up their jobs. On the contrary, they are usually advised not to do so. on the grounds that they would miss their work too much, just as persons who have to retire because of their age are known to do. In December 1996 the British tabloid newspapers reported the case of Linda Hill, who had won nearly £2m in the National Lottery but elected to continue with her £80-a-week job as a chambermaid at a Butlin's holiday centre. ("I love my job," she explained, "and life just wouldn't be the same without it.")

This recognition that work can be a physical and emotional necessity for human beings, no less than an economic one, is not very conspicuous before the later 17th century, although it is implicit in much earlier moralistic writing about the miseries of idleness. Robert Burton, the Jacobean anatomist of melancholy,

believed that, though the English nobility of his day had everything in abundance they were disproportionately subject to melancholic gloom because they lived lives of idleness; counting it a disgrace to work, they suffered endless "cares, griefs, false fears, discontents and suspicions". In the 19th century Florence Nightingale would write off the sufferings and frustrations of middle-class women who were kept compulsorily idle: "the accumulation of nervous energy, which has had nothing to do during the day, makes them feel every night, when they go to bed, as if they were going mad; and they are obliged to lie long in bed in the morning to let it evaporate and keep it down."

Medical writers had always urged the importance of physical exercise. Hence the philosopher John Locke's recommendation at the end of the 17th century that every scholar should spend three hours a day on manual labour as well as, of course, nine hours on thinking and reading. However, Locke also believed that psychologically, men cannot be perfectly idle; they must be doing something".

It was his 18th-century successor David Hume, who did most to develop this insight. "Every enjoyment," he wrote, "soon becomes insipid and distasteful, when not acquired by fatigue and industry. There was no craving of the human mind more constant and insatiable than the

desire for exercise and employment." When Adam Smith declared that labour involved the worker only in "toil and trouble", he was thinking primarily of manual work. Indeed he explicitly said that it was only what he called "the inferior employments" that were performed solely for the sake of the money, thus conceding the possibility that other occupations could be rewarding in themselves. Nevertheless, Karl Marx had a point when he declared that Smith's view of labour as a curse was psychologically misconceived.

For the young Marx work was not just a way of securing a livelihood: it was potentially a liberating activity, leading to selfrealisation and freedom. Alfred Marshall also conceded that "man rapidly degenerates unless he has some hard work to do, some difficulties to overcome". Those who pursued success in business or science or the arts could hope to experience intense pleasure, alternating with per-iods of lassitude, whereas for "ordinary people" who had no strong ambitions, moderate and fairly steady work offered the best opportunity for the growth of those habits of body, mind and spirit in which alone there is true happiness

It seems that almost any form of work can be satisfying if it requires absolute concentration, to the extent of at least momentarily shutting out all distracting and painful thoughts. Those who praise work have always emphasised that it takes one's mind off other things and offers the best antidote for sorrow. One can only speculate about the psychological roots of this long-persisting fear of being alone with oneself. No account of the pleasures of work is adequate if it focuses only on the satisfactions afforded by the task itself. As often as not, the attraction lies not in the job but in the human relations involved. Samuel Pepys, who stayed late in the office so as to avoid going home to quarrel with his wife, is one of an infinity of people who have found in the workplace solace for a frustrating life at home.

Today things may be about to change. The task of producing food has long ceased to occupy most of the population, while mechanisation and automation have vastly reduced the demand for manual and clerical labour. It is a commonplace to say that work is much less central to people's existence than it used to be and that vast spaces of leisure and domesticity have opened up. We are told that work is only one of many possible forms of fulfilment and that full-time employment and the lifetime career will become increasingly uncommon. In their place will emerge an economy of short-term contracts, part-time

work and frequent retraining. If the trend to ever greater leisure continues, the basic human impulses towards activity and social involvement will have to be satisfied in other ways. The great economist JM Keynes wrote in 1930: There is no country and no people... who can look forward to the age of leisure and abundance without a dread." His prescription was that we should try to share out what little work remained; three hours a day might be sufficient, he thought. In practice, however, it seems more likely that some of us will continue to be overworked. while others have no work at all.

Extracted from The Oxford Book of Work', edited by the author (OUP, £20)

BAROMETER SEAN O'GRADY

stay cool, in a coldblooded net sort of a way, then this, the Chacoan monkey tree frog, is today's exotic creature of choice. Its movements are slow and deliberate and it will stay in almost any position in which you care to place it. But too many of these cute little amphibians have been croaking (in the most unwelcome way) as owners seem unable to look after them. For the record, the monkey frog's natural habitat is the Paraguayan desert. It must be fed live prey, such as crickets, two or three times a week and kept at 35°C. £165

Bottomed OUL Things got a bit near the mark" for Stephen McGaw, who marched his party of schoolchildren out of the Royal

Dream. Titania, the fairy queen placed under a spell, was seen writhing on the stage simulating sex with Bottom, the weaver disguised in a pair of donkey's ears. The school is now demanding £610 compensation for the cost of the trip and expenses incurred while trying to "amuse the children in Stratford after the walk-out, Lord, what fools these mortals be.

Doll wars Wrestling in the mud for doll supremacy with Barbie, Sindy is being made over as a politically correct sort of blonde bimbo. Her makers explain: "Sindy is cooler than Barbie. She doesn't have a duff boyfriend like Ken who has no life of his own but just hangs on to Barbie's leg. Kids now won't fall for Barbie pretending to be a dentist. She's too

embarrassing." Deflation Sindy isn't the only pretty plastic doll having a n launch. Pamel. derson has do: the right thing and had her breast implants removed. "Pammi just wanted her body to go back to its naturaí state," said a spokeswoman. She'll be joining the WI

Image of the week Nothing plastic about the ladies of the Rylstone Women's Institute in Yorkshire, who are raising money for leukaemia research with a Baywatch-style candid calendar. This is Miss March, Lvn Knowles, in the kitchen preparing her baps. Call 01900 821011 for the Alternative WI Calendar, £5 plus £1 p&p.





Marathon man

Only one week to go until race day. The marathon staff move from our office near Waterloo to the race-week headquarters at the Tower Thistle Hotel. I have a prior engagement, watching my team, Spurs, play Newcastle in the semi-finals of the FA cup. Unfortunately, the less said about the match the better (Newcastle won 2-0). It's a big disappointment. I get to the hotel about 11pm in a sombre mood and find everyone buoyant after a start-ofweek party. The gulf between their emotions and mine has probably never been wider.

Monday To the London Arena, site of our exhibition and venue for all the runners UPPA to register. Will it really be ready for

opening on Wednesday? You wouldn't have thought so. looking at what resembles a building site. At Blackheath (one of two start areas for the marathon). I have a meeting to check the BBC camera positions, the star gantries and the grandstand. Feeling a bit low - and there's more to come. The service at an Indian restaurant in the evening is poor. There is an "exchange of opinions" with the management, a heavy discount on the meal and a promise that no one from the marathon will ever cross their portals again.

Tuesday week for the élite runners always concentrates the mind. Seeing the Olympic champion Josia Thugwane (South Africa) and the world-record

MY WEEK

DAVID BEDFORD, INTERNATIONAL RACE DIRECTOR FOR THE LONDON MARATHON

do) da Costa, from Brazil, brings home the fact that there is an important race to be run. Our international co-ordinator, Tim Hutchings, a former top British track runner, takes the chair. The format has changed this year, with Tim introducing the runners like a chat-The first press conference of the show host. He does a good, professional job.

Wednesday

bad news is that there has been a delay in the delivery of merchandise for the two marathon stands at the exhibition, the biggest of its type in still very frustrating - like inviting people to the opening of a pub and forgetting to order the beer. Then, in the evening, things take a turn for the better as Arsenal are beaten in The good news is that the exhibition ever seen. I would never normally on Sunday.

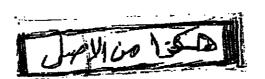
cheer for Man U, but as a Spurs fan Friday I make an exception if it means our north London rivals are stuffed. I celebrate with a curry - in a different restaurant - and a couple of beers. Life is not so bad after all.

shipment of clothing arrives, our shelves at the exhibition are full and the cash registers ring. Back at the hotel, we welcome back an old Britain, It's beyond our control but friend, Eamonn Martin, to today's press conference. Eamonn's victory in his début marathon in 1993 was one of the most popular in the history of the race. At 40, his best days are behind him, but he is still the other FA Cup semi-final by one a competitive athlete and is looking of the most remarkable goals I have to break the British veteran's record

All the élite athletes have now arrived and the strength of our men's field can be fully appreciated. It has to be the finest line-up of any big city marathon and would do full justice to the Olympics. There is a press conference and lunch for everyone, holder Ronaldo (no, not that Ronal and registration open on time. The It's getting better all the time. A large followed by an official reception. Off come the track suits and trainers. On

goes the evening wear. For me, the marathon now moves into high-profile mode. There is a lot of meeting and greeting, But soon all the preliminaries will be over, with a year's preparation coming to fruition. More than 30,000 runners of all ages and standards will take to the streets of London. Let's hope the weather is kind to us.

INTERVIEW BY DAISY PRICE



Sir George Bishop

seen as falling into three parts. The first, culminating in his appointment as the youngest ever Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was devoted to government and the Civil Service. The second, culminating in his period as chairman of Booker McConnell, focused on industry, commerce and banking. The third, culminating in his presidency of the Royal Geographical Society, was linked to mountaineering, photography and travel. Of course, the three parts intermingled

Bishop was proud of his Lancastrian roots, having grown up near Wigan and winning a scholarship to the Grammar School at Ashton-in-Makerfield before going on, again with a scholarship, to the London School of Economics where he studied Economics and Government under Harold Laski. During his time at the LSE he developed a strong social conscience, but he vigorously opposed the Communists who at that time had a prominent presence there.

On leaving the LSE in 1935, Bishop went to work in South Wales for a Quaker organisation which was helping the unemployed through the encouragement of subsistence production. In his spare time he climbed in North Wales, running the half-mile and driving fast cars. In 1937 he was the winner of the winter trials of the Riley Motor Club.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was a statistician working for the Ministry of Food; to his deep disappointment he had been rejected for military service because his skills were needed in the Civil Service. During the war he ran the Emergency Services Division of the Ministry of Food which, along with the Women's Voluntary Service, was responsible for bringing food and refreshment to the victims of German bombing throughout the UK. The arrival of cups of tea and

Bishop was greatly helped in the anticipation of the bombing raids and consequent food needs by the code breakers at Bietchiev.

After the war, Bishop was Private Secretary to two Labour Ministers of Food, Ben Smith and John Strachey. The improvement of food supplies, particularly fats and oils, was of paramount importance. The Government was persuaded to launch the ill-fated Tanganyika ground-nut scheme - growing ground nuts to help supplement the British fat ration - which was ill-prepared, inadequately planned and over-ambitious.

With his Minister, John Strachey, Bishop saw the impending disaster

vice-chairman in 1970 and chairman in 1972, until his retirement in 1979.

During this period Booker was transforming itself from a colonial plantation company to a diversified food conglomerate, mainly based in the UK. Bishop was proud of the fact that when the Booker estates and factories in Guyana were eventually nationalised in 1975, the financial impact on Booker was minimal. However, Bishop never neglected the outposts of the Booker empire. holding the firm view that he and his wife Una should visit any place

where staff were serving. In this context they spent many

Bishop rose fast up the Civil Service, then Booker McConnell, and last the Royal Geographical Society. He climbed his first mountain when he was eight

responsibility for winding the scheme up. This experience left him with an abiding scepticism of grandiose agricultural projects justified by untested assumptions of yield, production and profit. Bishop's other responsibilities included milk, sugar and cereals, and he was involved in the international wheat and sugar negotiations where he led the UK delegations. In 1959 he was promoted to Deputy Secretary, at that time the youngest such appointment ever.

In 1961 a civil service friend and mentor, Sir Henry Hancock, introduced Bishop to Jock Campbell (later Lord Campbell of Eskan), the chairman of Booker McConnell. which at that time was mainly involved in sugar production in British

and later, as Under-Secretary, had months in British Guyana during the emergency in the Sixties when the backlash from the political rivalry between Cheddi Jagan and Forbes Burnham resulted in attacks on Booker staff and families. The sugar industry also benefited from Bishop's efforts in Washington where he was largely responsible for securing a US sugar quota. In the UK, his business interests widened with directorships of Ranks Hovis Mc-Dougall, Barclays International and Barclays Bank. His continuing public service included membership of the Nato Civil Supplies Agency, the Panel for Civil Service, Manpower Review and the Royal Commission

> George Bishop climbed his first mountain at the age of eight and climbed regularly thereafter in hamshire 9 April 1999.

on the Press.

GEORGE BISHOP'S career can be fresh bread did much for morale. Guyana Bishop joined Booker the North Wales, the Lake District and same year as a director, becoming Scotland. In the 1960s he and Una went climbing in the Alps. Realising that Kashmir was in the sterling area, and thus not subject to exchange control, they discovered the Himalayas, the destination of 18 subsequent expeditions, mainly to Nepal.

Some 12,000 photographs testify to Bishop's commitment to the Himalayas. The photographic archive went further encompassing his travels for Booker and the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was President from 1983 to 1987. His achievements for the RGS included the restoration of the iron railings at its London headquarters and the mounting of a large, broadly based scientific expedition to the unexplored Kimberley area of Western Australia. With Una he made the first crossing of the King Leopold range and visited the unknown and untouched sites and caves.

George Bishop was a tremendous friend and colleague, particularly to that group of ageing executives at Booker whom he constantly referred to as "my young men". He was warm and loyal in good times and bad. He was properly concerned and involved with families. He believed in people.

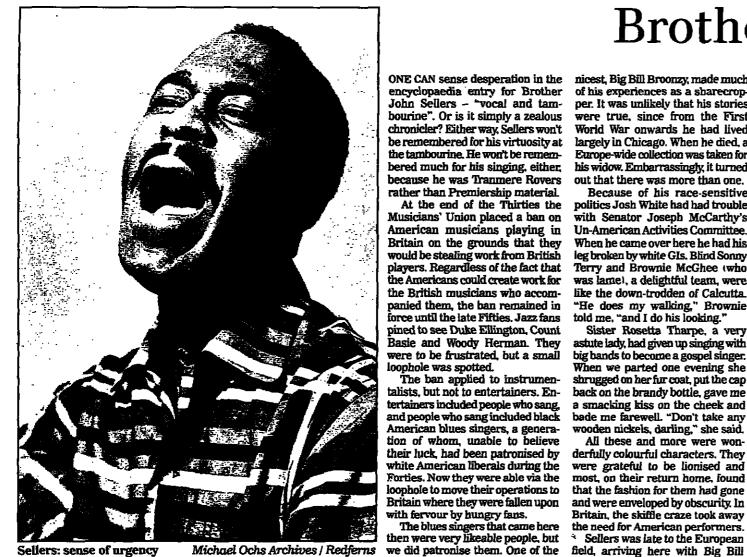
JONATHAN TAYLOR

George Sidney Bishop, civil servant and businessman: born Wigan, Lancashire 15 October 1913: Private Secretary to the Minister of Food 1945-49; OBE 1947; Under-Secretary. Ministry of Agriculture. Fisheries and Food 1949-59. Deputy Secretary 1959-61; CB 1958: director, Booker McConnell Ltd 1961-82, vice-chairman 1970-71. chairman 1972-79: Kt 1975: President. Royal Geographical Society 1983-87; married 1940 Marjorie Woodruff (one daughter, marriage dissolved 1961). 1961 Una Padel; died High Wycombe, Bucking-



Bishop, left, with Pember Norbo Sherpa on Snowdon

Brother John Sellers



encyclopaedia entry for Brother John Sellers - "vocal and tambourine". Or is it simply a zealous chronicler? Either way, Sellers won't the tambourine. He won't be remembecause he was Tranmere Rovers rather than Premiership material.

At the end of the Thirties the Musicians' Union placed a ban on American musicians playing in Britain on the grounds that they would be stealing work from British players. Regardless of the fact that the Americans could create work for the British musicians who accompanied them, the ban remained in force until the late Fifties. Jazz fans pined to see Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Woody Herman. They were to be frustrated, but a small loophole was spotted.

The ban applied to instrumentalists, but not to entertainers. Entertainers included people who sang, and people who sang included black American blues singers, a generation of whom, unable to believe their luck, had been patronised by white American liberals during the Forties. Now they were able via the loophole to move their operations to Britain where they were fallen upon with fervour by hungry fans.

The blues singers that came here then were very likeable people, but

ONE CAN sense desperation in the nicest, Big Bill Broonzy, made much of his experiences as a sharecropper. It was unlikely that his stories were true, since from the First World War onwards he had lived be remembered for his virtuosity at largely in Chicago. When he died, a Brother John did the preaching with in Chicago and he sang with her on Europe-wide collection was taken for bered much for his singing, either, his widow. Embarrassingly, it turned

out that there was more than one. Because of his race-sensitive politics Josh White had had trouble with Senator Joseph McCarthy's Un-American Activities Committee. When he came over here he had his leg broken by white GIs. Blind Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee (who was lame), a delightful team, were like the down-trodden of Calcutta. "He does my walking," Brownie told me, "and I do his looking."

Sister Rosetta Tharpe, a very astute lady, had given up singing with big bands to become a gospel singer. When we parted one evening she shrugged on her fur coat, put the cap back on the brandy bottle, gave me a smacking kiss on the cheek and hade me farewell. "Don't take any wooden nickels, darling," she said. All these and more were won-

derfully colourful characters. They were grateful to be lionised and most, on their return home, found that the fashion for them had gone and were enveloped by obscurity. In Britain, the skiffle craze took away the need for American performers. Sellers was late to the European

Broonzy in 1957. He had hedged his bets by being both a secular blues singer and a gospel singer. The pairing with Broonzy left Big Bill the cotton and the plough bit while some urban sex strife thrown in.

To the blues historian, Sellers's background was impeccable. He was born in Mississippi in 1924, where he

When Brother John sang "Wade in the Water", you got the feeling people had to do it – if they did they'd be saved'

learned to sing by watching legendary blues figures like Ma Rainey. Ida Cox, Robert Johnson and Blind Lemon Jefferson. By the age of five he was appearing in gospel tent shows, dancing, singing and playing the tambourine. His parents had to abandon him in the aftermath of a disastrous flood when he was a child, and Sellers was brought up for the next four years by his godmother.

the finest and most parsimonious gospel singers of them all, discovered him when he was 10 in a bordello. She took him to live with her stage, sometimes filling in for her as she rose to fame. It was then that he first sang with Broonzy and also worked with rhythm and blues bands on the side.

He recorded many times from 1945 onwards, confining himself to gospel until in 1951 he broke out with "Heavyweight Mama". By 1954 he was recording for the highlythought-of Vanguard label, backed by sophisticated jazz players like Ruby Braff, Sir Charles Thompson and Jo Jones. In London with Broonzy in 1957, Sellers recorded as leader with Al Fairweather, Wally Fawkes (the cartoonist Trog), Tony Kinsey and other jazz musicians accompanying him. During the same trip he recorded with French and American musicians in Paris.

On his return to New York he made more recordings. The fact that they were more sophisticated than those of the rural blues singers who were continuing to emerge meant that Sellers's heyday had passed. But he still earned a living from his music, working regularly at Folk City. a night-club in Greenwich City where singers like Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel and Joan Baez had appeared. He sang to illustrate talks

Mahalia Jackson, at once one of given by his friend Studs Terkel in the late Fifties and early Sixties. "He had a light tenor voice that was very strong," said Terkel. "He was no Mahalia, no Big Bill Broonzy, but there was a clarity and a sense of urgency. When Brother John sang Wade in the Water', for example, you got the feeling of the young preacher inviting the people into the shallow waters, that they had to do it because if they did they'd be found, they'd be saved. Brother John had a way of

making things come alive." In 1958 Sellers's singing at Folk City impressed Aivin Ailey, a young choreographer. The two got together and collaborated on Ailey's Blues Suite (1958) and Revelations (1960), which were scored by Sellers. Sellers stayed as a musician with the Alvin Ailey Dance Company; this association continued until his death, but he continued to work elsewhere, appearing in the poet Langston Hughes's Broadway show Turn bourines to Glory and touring spot

radically to Europe and the Far East. His last performance with Ailey was in 1997. At the time of Sellers's death he was in litigation with the dance company over royalties and copyright in regard to Revelations.

"Brother" John Sellers, gospel and jazz singer: born Clarksdale, Mississippi 27 May 1924; died New York 27 March 1999.

José Pierre

IF YOU don't take yourself serious- he did not meet Breton until 1952, ly, nobody else will. This axiom. well known to all the greatest comics, was at the root of the studied frivolity of Surrealism, a literary and artistic movement devised both to amuse and appal. It required that essential element of absurd gravity to make it believable, just as the only way to play farce is to treat it in deadly earnest.

the movement, an expert at self- on him to "the soul of the movement" advertisement, André Breton, was called "The Pope of Surrealism". His studio photographs by Man Ray show this incorrigible dynamiter of accepted values as a staid, rather but, unlike Gracq, who soon saw portly banker with - for a fierce homophobe - a certain resemblance to Oscar Wilde. He is still deified in France. The hotel where he lived for arrange the last international Sura while in Montparnasse. Rue realist exhibitions in 1959 ("Eros") Dolambre ta few steps from the Hôtel Apollinaire), bears a solemn the leader's death Pierre was the

Hotel Apollinaire . . . One of the great authorities on

when the movement was already on its last legs - like a flaccid carnival balloon it expired in a tired sigh with its auto-dissolution in 1969. Breton died in 1966. Like all charismatic leaders, Bre-

ton was an expert manipulator of his disciples. The only true genius to rally to his support was the great novelist and essayist Julien Gracq, No wonder that the leader of who dedicates his early (1948) book and ends it by calling him "one of the heroes of our time". It has the right Communist ring. José Pierre, like Gracq, was an ardent admirer. the error of his ways, an unconditional one. Pierre became Breton's right-hand man: he helped him and 1965 ("L'Ecart Absolu"). After memorial slab informing the organiser of all the post-Surrealist passer-by that the Great Anarch collective exhibitions both in France

slept there. No plaque marks the It was therefore natural that Pierre should have been an au-Surrealism who gave some ballast thority on Surrealist art. He wrote to its Ship of Fools was José Pierre, André Breton et la peinture (1987) its unofficial historian. Born in 1927, as a belated pendant to Breton's own

(1948). Pierre's Le Surréalisme aujourd'hui (1973) was one of the hundreds of rare items in the Paris auction of the bibliophile Jacques Matarasso's Surrealist collection which lasted for three days at Loudmer's in December 1993.

Other prominent works, each selling for thousands of francs, were Pierre's Le Futurisme et le Dadaisme (1966), Le Cubisme (1966) and Le Surréalisme (1967). One of his last great works was L'Univers symboliste, fin de siècle et décadence (1991). Its companion volume, L'Univers surréaliste, had appeared in 1983.

Indispensable works of detailed scholarly reference for the student of Surrealism are the two massive volumes he compiled of Tracts surréalistes et déclarations collectives, 1922-1969 (1980-82) which group together the pronouncements of weight by the Pope and his Swiss Guard of theoretical collaborators, often unintentionally funny when at their most solemn. These tomes include the important Manifestes du Surréalisme propounded by Breton in 1924 and 1930. Pierre's ex-

Le Surréalisme et la peinture making literary documents provide us with the best history of Surrealism ever written. He also wrote poems, and a play on the Marquis de Sade.

> One of Pierre's most subversive works is the erotic novel La Fontaine close, les livres secrets d'une secte politique inconnue (1988). This unknown sect is composed entirely of women, led by Alétheia (Truth) and her handmaidens Zoé (Life) and Sigé (Silence). Like the Surrealists, the sect issues manifestos, in one of Which Alèthéia proclaims: "And if a man returned your kiss at the exact second in which you gave him yours, it would produce the ourobouros drakon of the ancient alchemists the serpent devouring its own tail." The book's metaphors have a Surrealist aura: "woman" becomes "um of felicity" or "chosen vessel". Her lips are a "rainbow of sighs", her saliva "the dew of discourse", her navel "oasis", the vagina the "secret cup" or the "fountain enclosed". It makes one regret that such a sect

In the early Thirties, the Belgian Surrealist E.L.T. Mesens published pert commentaries on these epoch- a plaquette entitled Violette Nozières

Surrealist poets and eight painters. She was put on trial for having attempted to poison her mother and having murdered her incestuous father. Along with the anarchist murderess Germaine Breton (no relation) and the Papin sisters who had assassinated their female oppressors (the theme of Genet's Les Bonnes: Violette entered the Surtive feminine resistance to the slavery of family life.

Breton's poem begins: "Before your winged sex like a flower of the Catacombs ... " Eluard writes: "Violette dreamed of undoing - has undone - the horrible knot of serpents that are the ties of blood . . . " Pierre performed a public service by re-editing and prefacing this tribute in 1991. It far surpasses Claude Chabrol's lifeless 1978 film version with the superficial portrayal of Violette by Isabelle Huppert.

The publisher of Violette Nozières, Eric Losfield, hailed Pierre's 1974 novel Qu'est-ce que Thérèse? C'est les marronniers en fleurs along with Histoire d'O as "the greatest erotic works to appear since the war". It was admired by François

with tributes to her from eight. Truffaut, who at one time contemplated making a film of it. Critics praised its maniacal style, its musicality that casts an ever more spellbinding sexual excitement upon the willing reader.

The narrator is a youth obsessed by his elder brother's fiancée. She uses all her wiles to distract her fiancé from his studies, but he resists valiantly, swearing never to realist pantheon as a symbol of acuntil he has passed his final exams. The younger brother takes advantage of this stalemate and after a bibulous dinner, when the parents have retired to bed, the three of them go on drinking and dancing and are possessed by a common

sexual frenzy. The novel is really a treatise on sex education. The heroine's licentiousness is beautifully evoked. without vulgarity - perfect enter-tainment for that "otiose noon" of Ronald Firbank when, in the words of the great 18th-century hymnwriter Isaac Watts' Divine Songs for Children: "Satan finds some

mischief still / For idle hands to do." It was, of course, censored, but in today's slightly more liberated moral climate it has been reprinted (in



Pierre: maniacal style

1998) by that master of contemporary erotic publishing Jean-Jacques Pauvert, in his series "Lectures

Amoureuses". It is good to know that José
Pierre before his untimely death had the satisfaction of seeing this work, his favourite, reprinted and recognised as an erotic masterpiece, the sort of Surrealist dream at the heart of us all.

JAMES KIRKUP

José Pierre, writer, born Bénesse-Maremme, France 1927; died Paris î April 1999.

never existed.

BIRTHS. MARRIAGES & DEATHS BIST

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW

Francis Baines

IN A career which spanned almost 50 years, Francis Baines was one of Britain's most accomplished doublebass players. He was also a collector of rare and early musical instruments. a gifted composer and an inspired teacher.

Born in Oxford to "quite unmusical parents" in 1917, Baines inherited his interest in music from his grandfather who, he claimed, played the cello rather badly "but knew that Bach was good stuff". He was educated at St Paul's School in London where he taught himself to play the double-bass because one happened to be "lurking in the corner and nobody else could play it". This random choice provided concert-goers for many years with one of the most familiar figures of the chamber orchestra, rapt in his playing, with facial expression and body movements to match the rhythm and mood of the music.

At St Paul's, out of a total of 600 boys, he was one of four who took music, and his first lessons were on the piano from "a kind old lady" who struggled unsuccessfully to reveal the mysteries of the keyboard to him. He told me: "As a composer I've sat in front of a piano for years and I still can't play the thing properly." His luck changed in 1935 when he was offered a scholarship to the Royal College of Music "because they needed a double-bass player". He took composition as his second study with

Herbert Howells and Gordon Jacob. When war broke out in 1939, Baines went into the Army and served for six vears as "the world's worst soldier". On demobilisation he joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra, where he played under some of the greatest conductors of the day including Bruno Walter, Wilhelm Furtwängler and Victor de Sabata. After two years he found this

experience "too noisy", abandoned orchestral playing for a year and went to live on a boat on the Thames to "think things out".

He returned to double-bass playing in 1949 when he became principal with the Boyd Neel Orchestra, one of only two chamber orchestras in existence at the time. He remained with them for many years after they had become the Philomusica. "I was lucky because they played so much baroque music and I just like baroque music."

Despite his reputation as one of the best exponents of his instrument, he never regarded the double-bass with much respect. He once said: "I've always been grateful that I learned to play the bass - you can always keep the wolf from the door, and you don't have to practise the thing."

As a composer he took things more seriously and wrote a trumpet concerto and a violin concerto, and his published works included a number of symphonic works and chamber music for strings, wind and brass. His first symphony used to be performed quite often but Baines thought it "too corny" so he spent two years writing another which wasn't. But as no one else appeared to share this view, the Baines Symphony No 2 remained in obscurity.

The story of how Francis Baines started his quest for instruments is almost Chestertonian. He had just missed a train at Nottingham one Sunday morning and took a walk to peer in the shop windows. He discovered a junk shop where a brass plate read "Lessons Given on the Viola de Gamba". When next in Nottingham he visited the shop and bought a bass viol which turned out to be made by Ross, one of the most distinguished of the early 17th-century sity Music Club. He also founded the 4 April 1999.



Baines: 'You can always keep the wolf from the door'

makers. From this time onwards Baines scoured the country looking for instruments and managed to find a matched consort of viols made by another famous 17th-century maker, Henry Jaye. In 1959 he founded the "Jave Consort of Viols" which went on to become one of the most celebrated of the early music groups, and with whom Baines continued to perform until 1992.

Baines never appeared to take himself, or anything else, for that matter, seriously. But behind the quick, dry throwaway humour there was a history of solid work and a real contribution to the musical life of Britain. He was a visiting professor at the Royal College of Music, for many years a lecturer and demonstrator in schools, and at one time ensemble coach to the Oxford Univer-

TOMORROW

painter, 1852.

Births: Lucrezia Borgia,

Duchess of Ferrara, daughter of

Francis Baring, banker and merchant, 1740; George Henry

Pope Alexander VI, 1480; Sir

Lewes, journalist and critic,

1817; Henry Clarence Kendall, poet, 1839; Sir George Clausen.

Deaths: Filippino Lippi, painter, 1504; John Leland, antiquary.

1689; Jean-Baptiste Isabey, painter, 1855; Sir Robert Smirke,

1552; George Jeffreys, first Baron Jeffreys of Wern, judge,

Florrie Forde, music hall

artiste, 1940; Albert Einstein

nalist and playwright, 1964;

Benny Hill (Alfred Hawthorn

Hill), comedian, 1993; Dame Elisabeth Frink, sculptor, 1993.

On this day: Paul Revere,

American silversmith and patri-

ot, made his dramatic ride from Charleston to Lexington, 1775:

the 2,000 Guineas horse-race

was first run at Newmarket. 1809; the remains of David

Livingstone were interred in

Natural History Museum in

tated by a great earthquake,

Hague, 1946; the League of

Westminster Abbey, 1874; the

South Kensington was opened

1881; San Francisco was devas-

1906; the International Court of

Nations was formally dissolved

and its assets handed over to

the United Nations, 1946; the Republic of Ireland Act came into force, when Eire became a

republic, 1949; London Bridge

was sold to a US oil company:

the bridge was later re-erected

in Arizona, 1968; the US Senate voted that, in 1999, the Panama

Canal would be turned over to

the Republic of Panama, 1978.

Saints Eleutherius and Anthia,

St Galdinus, St Idesbald and St

St Apollonius the Apologist.

Laserian or Molaisse.

norrow is the Feast Day of

nhysicist, 1955; Ben Hecht, jour

Chamber Music Club of the Mary Ward Settlement in London when he was a Lecturer there from 1948 to 1950.

At Aldeburgh in the Fifties and Sixties he was a frequent performer at the festival displaying his versatility by playing the double-bass, the French bagpipes (the musette), pipe and tabor, shawm and hurdy-gurdy. He took part in a performance of the Schubert "Trout" quintet with Benjamin Britten and the Amadeus Quartet and played no fewer than nine instruments in a recording of medieval music made many years ago.

In 1992 Baines and his violinist wife, June (known professionally as Elizabeth Hardy), retired to live in Co Cork in Ireland, where they grew all their own produce and played music together every day. As a couple they were inseparable and, when June died at the end of February, Baines was devastated and lost the will to live.

Many years ago Francis Baines told me that, although he enjoyed making music per se, he longed to give up public performing and lead a leisurely life doing what he really enjoyed. He was one of those rare people who somehow managed to achieve a great deal in his field without becoming pompous or conceited, because he never lost his sense of wonder. He was totally unpredictable and very good company - in other words, that vanishing breed, the true eccentric.

MARGARET CAMPBELL

Francis Athelstone Baines, doublebass player: born Oxford 11 April 1917; twice married, secondly June Hardu (died 1999; two sons and one daughter); died Ballydehob, Co Cork

HISTORICAL NOTES

JAMES DAVIDSON

What does fish have to do with democracy?

fragments of lost comedies from classical Athens, you cannot fail to be struck by the number of references to seafood. It is not simply the number of them which is so striking as the fact that seafood seems completely to dominate dreams of lavish feasts. No description of a splendid dinner is complete without its tuna, its eels, its sea bass, groupers, langoustines, sea-urchins and some other species we have yet to identify: "boar fish", "grey fish", "Rhodian dog fish". There were a few delicacies which had nothing to do with the sea: Lydian stew, sow's womb, smoked pig's knuckles, but they are quite

overwhelmed by all the mol-

fuscs, crustaceans and fish.

Fish is presented as an irresistible temptation: what corrupt politicians spend their ill-gotten gains on; what handsome boys surrender their virtue for, the reason why criminals turn to a life of crime. We happen to know that in Spring 421 BCE three comedies in competition attacked Aeschylus's nephew Melanthius for his devotion to fish. One of them, Aristophanes' Peace, survives. It describes Melanthius as a mageddon for the denizens of the deep. Yet another comedy, Archippus's The Fish, took the "war" between men and fish as its central theme. A chorus line of men dressed

IN THE summer of AD 622, a

Jewish peasant from Medina

spotted two weary travellers

heading towards the shade of

a palm tree. He recognised the

two men to be the Muslim

Prophet Mohamed and his ally

Ahu Bakr. He knew that having

just escaped from Mecca, they

were seeking asylum in Medi-

na. He did not know, however,

that their arrival was to mark.

for millions yet unborn, the be-

ginning of a new era of history.

calendar from the date of Mo-

hamed's "departure" (hijru)

from his native city of Mecca,

a city he was destined to con-

quer, without bloodshed, some

10 years later. Why not count

from the year 610 when the first

verses of the Holy Koran were

revealed? Why not the birth of

the Prophet? Why not his

death? Why not the Muslim

victory at the decisive battle of

Badr which marked the begin-

ning of the annihilation of the

pagan power structure of the Meccan aristocracy?

We see the reasons for the

Muslim choice by examining

the significance of the Hijra.

This event divides the Koran

into its Meccan and Medinan

tion. Mohamed was already in

his early fifties when he em-

barked reluctantly on the road

portions, the moral preaching

Muslims date their lunar

READING THE vast array of to make peace and to abstain in defining hetaeras - prosfrom eating sailors lost at sea on one condition, that their dread enemy, Melanthius, be

handed over to them in chains. The Greek passion for seafood looks rather bizarre to us and serves as a useful reminder that although no human society has been invulnerable to the so-called pleasures of the flesh, which include drinking and sex as well as eating, these pleasures manifest themselves rather differently and with different intensities in different places and times. We are hardly surprised to find that the Greeks loved wine, but their anxiety about its effects will be less familiar. They seem to have had little sense of alcohol as an addictive drug, but they thought a slug of neat wine could drive you crazy or even kill you stone dead (as it killed Alexander the Great and Hep-

haestion his beloved friend). Greek men were also, contrary to popular perception. well able to appreciate the charms of the opposite sex. However, although marriage was a necessity and brothels commonplace and slavegirls always available for a hurried grope while the wife was out of the room, it was skate-snatching harpy, Ar- the hetaeras, the courtesans, who seem to have dominated heterosexual daydreams. women whose role can only be explained in a Greek context, a role which has no obvious parallel in our own up in fishy costumes offered society. In fact the difficulty

titutes. mistresses, models, entertainers, friends - is a central element in their identity. When you went to a brothel you got your obolsworth, but a hetaera might he thrilled with the beautiful necklace you bought for her and still turn you down. She was open to offers, but by no means for sale. Her most valuable asset was an ungraspable image, which is why, when she heard she had featured in an erotic fantasy, one particular hetaera sued for payment. The judge ordered the defendant to bring the sum demanded into court and allowed the hetaera to graso its shadow. A poor judgment, said the hetaera Lamia, on hearing this apocryphal story, the shadow of money is not nearly so

Placing pleasure in historical context is useful in itself, but a large part of Courtesans and Fishcakes is devoted also to making a link between pleasure and the mainstream of Greek, or rather Athenian, history, the world of politics and empires. What does fish have to do with democracy? What does fish have to do with war, with revolution? Well, as it turns out much more than you would ever imagine.

satisfying as an erotic dream.

James Davidson is the author of Courtesans and Fishcakes: the consuming passions of classical Athens'

GAZETTE

Sir Teddy Taylor MP, 62; Sir Edgar Unsworth, former Chief Justice, Gibraltar, 93.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

BIRTHS

O'FARRELL: On 9 April, in Chichester, to Joanna and Sean, a gorgeous son, Seamus Fred.

DEATHS

MILNES: Barbara Joan (née MILNES: Barbara Joan (née Thompson), on 13 April 1999. Beloved wife of Charles Francis Milnes, much-loved mother of Julie Jaffray, Caroline Cronson, and Paul Milnes, and grandmother of Christopher, Isobel and Noah, Funeral Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Christehurch, at 9.45am on Thursday 22 April, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, but donations if desired may be sent for "Silverways Nursing Home" to Miller Bros and FB. Butler Ltd, Funeral Directors, 119 Bargales, Funeral Directors, 119 Bargates, Christchurch, Dorset, Telephone 01202 485439.

> MEMORIAL **SERVICES**

BRAMALL: A memorial service for Sir Ashley Bramall will be held on Tuesday 11 May 1999 at St Saviour's Church, St George's Square, Pimlico, SWI, at 6.30pm.

RYLANDS: A Memorial Service for Dr G.H.W. (Dadie) Rylands will be held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, at 2.30pm, Saturday 8 May 1999. All are

IN MEMORIAM

LANG: Violet, Happy Birthday today. Remembering always all the happy times and laughter. Never far away. Much love, Elisabeth.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS, telephone 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, former prime minister of Sri Lanka, 83; Mr Chris Barber, jazz musician, 69; Mr John Barrett, tennis commentator, 68; Mr Norman Cowans, cricketer, 38; Miss Ruth Etchells, former Principal, St John's College, Durham, 68; Miss Clare Francis, novelist and yachtswoman, 53; Miss Jane Griffiths MP, 45; Mrs Anne Harris, former national chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 74; Miss Olivia Hussey, actress, 48; Mr Henry Kelly, television presenter, 53; Mr James Last, bandleader, 70; The Hon Sir Humphrey Maud, Deputy Sec-retary General of the Commonwealth, 65; Sir Peter Morris, Nuffield Professor of Surgery. Oxford University, 65; Mr Riccardo Patrese, grand prix driver, 45; Mrs Dora Saint ("Miss Read"), writer, 86; Mrs Eileen Stamers-Smith former Headmistress, Malvern Girls' College, 70: Dr Michael Stroud, explorer, 44; Sir Michael Vernon, former chairman, RNLI, 73; The Right Rev John Yates, former Bishop of

TOMORROW: Miss Avril Angers, actress, 77; The Hon Michael Beloff QC, President, Trinity College, Oxford, 57; Dr Clive Booth, former Vice-University, 56; Mr Alan Devereux, former chairman Scottish Tourist Board, 66; Miss Barbara Hale, actress, 77; Sir Peter Hordern, chairman. Fina, 70; Mr Peter Jeffrey, actor, 70; Mr Mark Kingston. Lawrence, managing director London Philharmonic, 49; Mr Malcolm Marshall, cricketer. 41; Lord Mason of Barnsley. 41; Lord Masser of Barnsley, former MP, 75; Miss Hayley Mills, actress, 53; The Rev Dominic Milroy OSB, former Headmaster, Ampleforth College, 67; Baroness Platt of Writtle, former chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 76; The Right Rev Dr Edward Roberts, former Bish-

ANNIVERSARIES TODAY Births: John Ford, playwright, 1586; John Pierpont Morgan, financier, 1837; Konstantinos Petrou Kavafis (Constantine Cavafy), poet, 1863; Ian Hay (John Hay Beith), novelist, 1876; Sir (Charles) Leonard Woolley, archaeologist_1880; Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, Russ-lan leader, 1894; Thornton Niven Wilder, novelist and playwright. 1897; Lindsay Gordon Anderson, film, television and theatre director, 1923.

Deaths: Marie de Rabutin 1696; Benjamin Franklin, writer, diplomat and scientist, 1790; Catherine Maria Fanshawe, painter and poet, 1834; William Henry Ireland, forger of Shakespearean manuscripts, 1835; Scott Brady (Gerald Tierney), actor, 1985.

On this day: at Dordrecht

(Dort), Holland, the sea broke through the dykes, and over 100,000 people were drowned, 1421; Martin Luther was excommunicated by the Diet of Worms, 1521; the Republic of Guatemala was founded, 1839: the Empire Theatre, London, opened as the Royal London Panorama, 1870; Turkey Yugoslavia surrendered to the Germans, 1940; Premium Savings Bonds were introduced in Britain, 1956; the attempted invasion of Cuba took place at the Bay of Pigs, 1961; in Czecho-slovakia, Alexander Dubcek was replaced by Dr Gustav Husak as first secretary of the Communist Party, 1969; in Cambodia, the civil war ended after rendered to the Khmer Rouge forces, 1975; a policewoman. Yvonne Fletcher, was shot dead outside the Libyan embassy in

Today is the Feast Day of St Aybert, St Donnan and Others, St Innocent of Tortona, St Map-

palicus and Others, St Robert of Chaise-Dieu and St Stephen Harding. Today is also the first day of the Muslim New Year. **LECTURES**

TODAY National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Feasts (iii): Rem-brandt, Belshazzor's Feast",

Victoria and Albert Museum: Maxine Smitheram, "Fashionable Dress 1825-1850", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Pyrotechnics in Paint", 1pm.

British Museum: Lorna Oakes "Assyrian Royal Sculpture", 11.30am; Lorna Oakes, "Royal Sculpture of Ancient Egypt",

TOMORROW Victoria and Albert Museum: Maxine Smitheram, "Textile Design 1825-1850", 2pm. Rebecca Lyons, "G.F. Watts and the Pre-Raphaelite Aesthetic".

RECEPTIONS

Baroness Darcy de Knayth, President, hosted a reception for the 25th anniversary of Skill National Bureau for Students with Disablities) yesterday evening at the House of Lords, London SW1. Lord Ashley of Stoke, Lord Morris of Manchester and Ms Barbara Waters. Chief Executive of Skill, were the speakers.

ROYAL

The Princess Royal, Chief Comman dant for Women in the Royal Navy, today visits the Royal Naval Reserve Training Centre at HMS Forward, Tilton Road, Birmingham.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY: The Household Cavalry
Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's
Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am;
Nijmegen Company Grenander Guards
mounts the Queen's Guard, at Bucking-ham Palace, 11.30am, hand provided by
the Grenadier Guards. TOMORROW:
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at
Horse Guards. 4pm.

BRIDGE

South's first plan turned out to North be unfeasible and he fell back on what he described as "the best percentage play". This also failed, perhaps a little unluckily, but can you spot the winning line that he missed? North opened One Diamond, East overcalled with One Heart, and South (quite practically) decided to force to game with Two Spades - reasoning that he might well find it difficult to catch up if he bid 9185 only One Spade. North, with his 44 excellent controls, was happy

Declarer's first idea was a good one - he planned to draw trumps in two rounds, eliminate the hearts and clubs, and end-play East by finessing the ten of diamonds. Then East would have to concede a ruff and discard or return a diamond. However, when the trumps proved to be 3-0, this was no longer an option because of West's nine of spades. for East would be able to exit

safely with a heart. Declarer fell

to co-operate: the final contract

was Six Spades against which

West led the two of hearts.

Game all; dealer North

two diamonds from dummy. East must keep all of his diamonds and so has to make five other discards. Now, only now, declarer ruffs both a heart and a club in his own hand. This reduces North, East and South to three diamonds apiece and finally, a finesse of the ten of diamonds end-plays East. It would have been an unusual combination of a squeeze with-

ving way to more legal and litical injunction. The Hijra, rhaps the most influential nigration in history, effecely transformed Islam from tiny persecuted and powers minority into a religious suyears in Mecca aroused hosity; the impenitent city drove him out on pain of assassina-

> to exile. Many Christians have criti-

cised Mohamed's decision to leave his native city to build an alternative power structure in Medina. The Hijra has been seen as a decisive politicisation of Islam whereby a spiritual creed was morally compromised. In his darkest hour, at the watershed of his prophetic career, the argument runs, Moharned betrayed his vocation.

Unlike Jesus and other true servants of the Word, he failed out the count and an end play. I to resist the temptation of

worldly power. He opted for a body, are to stand up against exfellowship of faith and force: ternal attack by a hostile world Mohamed established by the or even against the menace of sword what he taught by the pen. Christ by contrast, it is concluded, never moved to his Medina: he stayed in bers but also upon the wide-Jerusalem and drank from the spread recognition of the need cup of suffering love in the agony of Gethsemane.

The choice between

exile and death

A Muslim might retort that the Arabian Apostle, face to face with Pontius Pilate, would have given him a lot more to do than merely wash his hands. If such Muslim triumphalism is shallow and disrespectful to the Christian conscience, equally unfair to Islam is this Christian accusation against

FAITH & Reason

SHABBIR AKHTAR

Islamic New Year begins tomorrow. It is dated from the moment the Prophet Mohamed fled from Mecca. So why commemorate a

time of defeat?

erpower in embryo. An Mohamed After all, the situanarmed apostle who had tions in first-century Palestine ight the iconoclastic creed for and seventh-century Arabia were hardy comparable. For Jesus the military option would not have feasible, even if he had wanted to chose it; but Mohamed lived in a part of the world the Romans dismissed as Arabia Deserta. Is this an accident of history or the providence of God?

> Whichever answer we may give to that question, if men are to do good effectively in this world, they must act in association - and no form of association, no matter how large, can afford to rest solely upon community of purpose, implicit agreement of opinion or even the cementing influence of charismatic leadership. If such associations, along with the intensely shared vision they em- Gospel

internal dissension, they must be able to count daily not only upon the firm lovalty of memfor struggle, including violent struggle, against those profane forces intolerant of the good. This is the reasoning of the Koran in that matter of armed struggle (jihad) which has for so long alienated those readers of the text who are reared in the ethos of meekness and pacific protest against evil.

History gives us no example of a more honest statesman than Mohamed, this prophetpolitician from Mecca, who taught his followers to repay goodness with gratitude but evil with justice. His frankness about the need for power in this corrupt world is often mistaken for a Machiavellian lust for domination at worst and a misplaced fanaticism on behalf of God at best. The truth lies in neither verdict - assuming that truth is what we seek and, in the case of believers, by the grace of God, find. And the truth is that, though good men may preach ceaselessly on behalf of the good cause, the world rarely casts its vote for goodness. We recognise the moral superiorities attaching to the words of prophets but we also learn to ignore their petitions.

The last word is everywhere and always about peace. "Believers," commands the Koran, "enter fully into a state of peace." This is the final imperative of all authentic religion. But the pursuit of such a wholesome and enduring peace, founded on mercy and sustained by justice, is a risky affair "We looked for peace," laments Jeremiah, "and no good came."

Many have since looked for peace and much evil comes of it. For paradoxically, we still live in the kind of world where, as we see in the case of Nato's bombing of Serbia, we often need to wage a war in order to secure a hearing for peace.

Shabbir Akhtar is a Muslim philosopher currently working on a book on St John's



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State of the state

IN 1963, Mikhail Moiseevich

Rotvinnik defended his world Botvinnik defended his world championship title for what turned out to be the last time. His stage-struck opponent, Tigran Petrosian, lost execrably in the first game but stabilised, won excellently in the fifth and ultimately ran out the convincing winner with five wins, two losses and 15 draws. Shorn of the right to a return match which he had exercised and won against both Smyslov and Tal, Botvinnik bowed out and Petrosian remained champion until Boris Spassky defeated him at the second attempt in 1969. rosian are now dead but the

current (January 1999) rating list includes no fewer than four Botvinniks and seven Petrosians, of whom one Botvinnik and two Petrosians - Tigran and Tigran A, bear the first names of their illustrious fore-To the state of th runners. And indeed I believe that Mikhail Botvinnik from Belarus (born January 1983) recently played the Armenian Tigran Petrosian (born September 1984) in a youth tour-

Both Botvinnik and Pet-

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

op of Ely, 91; Mr David Ruffley MP, 37; Mr Ian Taylor MP, 54;

nament, though I can't for the life of me remember - or discover - more precise details. It must be something of a burden to carry such a name. The said Mikhail Botvinnik recently played in the 15th memorial tournament in memory of the originally Polish Moshe Czerniak (1910-1984), which took place from 28 March to 8 April in Tel Aviv. The category 10 tournament was won convincingly by the

23-year-old Dov Zifroni from Herzliya, who achieved his final Grandmaster norm and so becomes the newest Israeli Grandmaster. Zifroni on 7/9 was a point clear of the 19-year-old Alik Gershon (also Israel as are all

others if not specified) whose 6/9 was also enough for a GM norm. There followed Bykhovsky (Russia) 5.5, Greenfeld, Kantsler and Lutz (Germany) 5, Alterman 4.5, Tibor Karolyi (Hungary) 3 while Botvinnik (Belarus) and Blees (Holland) were last on 2.

That poor Botvinnik, who is 12 rated 2,239, does not (yet) play 13 like the "iron logician" Mikhail 14

Moiseevich is evident from this attractive game.

In a French Defence White got a kingside attack and Lutz decided to "go for it" with the piece sacrifice 15 Qe3!? Perhaps Black should play 17 ...Bxg2 to control h1 since 18 Bxg6 fxg6 19 Qxe6+ Qf7 20 Rxg6+ Kh7 21 Rh6+ Kg8 is only a draw, 19 Rah4 defended the d pawn in preparation for 20 Rh7. If 21 ... Rd6 (to prepare flight starting ...Kd7) 22 Rh8 Qg7 23 R4h7 traps the queen. At the end it's mate in two.

> White: Christopher Lutz Black: Mikhail Botvinnik French Defence 15 Qe3!? bxg5

ra described
16 hxg5 Qg7
17 Rh6 Rd8
18 Rdhi Kf8
19 R1h4 Ke7
20 Rh7 Qg8
21 c4 Na6
22 d5 Bd7
23 Qe5 Nc5
24 d6+! exd
25 Qf6+ Ke8
26 Rxf7 Nxd
27 Kb1 Qxf7
28 Rh8+ 1-0

ALAN HIRON

IN A good slam on this deal,

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◆ A K Q J 1076		
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back on repeated finesses in diamonds and so failed. Any ideas? Try exactly five

rounds of trumps, discarding

This one's from the heart

Tom Waits is a man out of sync. With his pie-eyed bar-room ballads and primal bone-banging, he's always stood at odds with the music industry. Now he's back with a magnificent new album and tall tales from the wild wood. Anyone for a banana slug? By Barney Hoskyns

ew of the patrons of the China Light diner in Santa Rosa look up when Tom Waits shuffles through the door. Attired in coarse indigo denim and clutching a bulky leather briefcase, to them he's merely another street eccentric. Just as he blended effortlessly into the barfly demimonde of sleazoid Hollywood in the days when he was bellowing songs such as "The Piano Has Been Drinking", so now - despite living in rural bliss with a wife and three children - Waits can wander into a Chinese diner in northern California without causing a commotion. Then again, when you're sat

down with him and he's yanked a battered paperback called The Ultimate Book of Oddities out of the briefcase, Thomas Alan Waits hardly looks like your average Joe. Perhaps it's the little swatch of white-grey hair beneath his lower lip, or the nest of dark red locks scrunched under his old fedora. Maybe it's the deep. growling voice - pitched somewhere between Lord Buckley and Leonard Cohen - in which he speaks of upcoming local attractions such as the Banana Slug Festival.

"They're gelatinous gastropods 10 inches long, and people cook with them," he grunts. "They're indigenous to this area. A nephew of mine asked me to capture and send him one. We did, and it was a big hit."

The truth is, Waits doesn't much care for the interview ritual, even if this one is to promote his terrific new album Mule Variations. It might be different if he could talk all day about banana slugs, but the realities of the modern music industry behave him to address the many ramifications of his three-decade career. It's probably a good thing that he only comes out of hiding every few years.

Recorded in a small studio in Cotati, near Waits' home, Mule Variations gives us the 49-year-old singer in all his favoured (dis)guises, from Dada-esque bluesman to maudlin balladeer and back again. One minute his guttural groams suggest a dying Howlin' Wolf, the next he's at the parallour upright crooning gruffly to his wife and colcrazed than Bone Machine (1992) or The Black Rider (1993), the album has a rough-hewn feel that screams backwater contentmen' If one excepts "Blind Love", his 385 collaboration with Keith Richards, it may be as close as Tom Waits ever comes to making a country record.

Mule Variations is very different from his 1972 debut Closing Time, or any of the other albums that made Waits' name in the Seventies. For then he played the part of a pie-eyed LA hipster who'd retreated into the pre-rock universe of Jack Kerouac and Thelonious Monk. Just how "real" the Charles-Bukowski-sings-Mickey-Spillane persona of The Heart of Saturday Night (1974) and Nighthawks at the Diner (1975) was, remains a sore point.

"It's a ventriloquist act, everybody does one," he says a touch impatiently. "People don't care whether you're telling the truth or not, they just want to be told something they don't already know."



Waits, by the end of the Seventies, had grown weary of his alcoholicbeatnik persona, and especially of the way his slurry ballads were being smothered by overly lush orchestrations. In 1982, following his superb soundtrack for Francis Ford Coppola's One From The Heart, he took an abrupt detour off Beatnik Boulevard. Producing himself for the first time, he enlisted a fresh group of musicians to help him forge a new sonic language: knotty, neo-primi-tivist, and completely unlike anything that was being made in that

Whether it was "true" or not, soulless, upscale decade. Inspired by cult composer and instrumentbuilder Harry Partch's concept of "corporeality" - of "sound grounded in the body" - Waits made the astounding feat of self-reinvention that was Swordfishtrombones.

"I was trying to find some new channel or breakthrough for myself," he says. "It was like growing up and hitting the roof, because you have this image that other people have of you, based on what you've put out there so far and how they define you and what they want from you. It's difficult when you try to make some

kind of a turn or a change in the weather for yourself."

Even those Waitsians wedded to an image of their hero wallowing in a Hollywood gutter were stunned by the brilliant eclecticism of Swordfishtrombones and its successors. Listening again to the album - and to Rain Dogs (1985) and Frank's Wild Years (1987) - what continues to astonish is just how earthy and radically lo-fi they are. At a time when pop music was being buried under layers of studio gloss, Waits reduced his sound to a few anti-

quated keyboards, some makeshift

"IT'S STARTED already, the

misplacing the weatherman

Betjemanesquely, after

on Saturday morning's

indeed, so it proved this

week. The Dante's Inferno

(Radio 4, Thursday), which

featured the shipbreakers

Today (Radio 4) and,

variety appeared on

Crossing Continents

of the world's largest

scrapyard, at Alang in

half the world's

Gujarat, who beach over

decommissioned vessels

and then dissect them, by

The work is lucrative and

suicidally dangerous, in a

way that the Reith lecturer

Anthony Giddens, speaking

on "Risk" this week in Hong

Kong, would no doubt have

inadvisable". Workers are

regularly killed by falling

steel plates, and the only

safety-net is the five-bed

old hulks to the Rolling

Stones, From Station to

Stadium: the Rolling

2. Saturday) was an

Red Cross hospital nearby.

From money-spinning

Stones on the Road (Radio

extremely leisurely ramble

described as "rather

hand, down to rusty jetsam,

chaos," said Sue

MacGregor

Ribot, who seemed to play with a fla-

grant disregard for the right notes. "I wanted to find music that felt more like the people who were in the songs, rather than everybody being kind of dressed up in the same outfit," he says. "The people in my earlier songs might have had unique things to say and have come from diverse backgrounds, but they all looked the same."

As he had always done. Waits sang of drifters and grifters, amiable losers like the bumbling trio in Jim Jarmusch's Down By Law. played

percussion, and a guitarist, Marc by Waits, John Lurie, and Roberto Benigni. How apt that Waits should have worked with Jarmusch, whose dry, low-key Eighties comedies now look like black-and-white blueprints for every hip, quirky movie made in the ensuing decade. Back in 1987. when both Down By Law and Frank's Wild Years were made, pop culture was all about Madonna and Michael Jackson, Stallone and Schwarzenegger. Twelve years later, the Waits/Jarmusch aesthetic is everywhere: in every Elmore Leonard movie adaptation and post-

grunge album of skewed Americana.

For 15 years, Waits has been a totemic figure for a generation of alternative acts who want their music to sound dirty, visceral, and human. From the gothic swamp-rock of Nick Cave and PJ Harvey to the muddy grooves of the Beta Band and the stomping blues-punk of Jon Spencer, Waits is the hidden presence behind so much music that rages against mechanical blandness. Just as Waits himself fused Partch's fantastical ensembles with the Dada blues of Captain Beefneart and the acid schmaltz of Randy Newman, so these Nineties acts have variously combined rock and hip hop with the sound of Waits' selfstyled "mutant dwarf orchestra".

Perhaps what these people love most about Waits is how resolutely he's refused to sell out. (It is a splendid irony that he's probably made more money suing companies for using or impersonating his music in ads than he would have made by allowing it to be used.) It's difficult to imagine Waits rubbing cummerbunds with Robbie Robertson and Ahmet Ertegun at a Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame dinner. Just as Kerouac and Burroughs were waging guerrilla warfare against the cultural status quo, so Waits has refused to cosy up to the rock establishment, knowing how much it would compromise what he does. By his own admission, he's never been much of a joiner-in. "I'm just suspicious of large groups of people going anywhere together," he says. "I don't know why, I just always have been. If there's 30,000 people going to see some event, I'm suspicious of it."

Waits draws on the time-honoured beat strategy of dissembling. bluff-calling, and tall-tale telling. He wriggles out of the media's grasp, refusing to be pinned down. For him, there is no "essence" of Tom Waits, no message to be interpreted. Instead, he roots himself in a tradition of "show business", exaggerating the very nature of "performance".

One of the tracks on Mule Variations is a comically spooky piece called "What's He Building In There?" - the monologue of a prying busybody obsessed with the unsavoury things his mysterious neighbour might be up to. ("I swear low/And I keep seeing the blue light of a TV show ... ") Aside from being hysterically funny, the track almost functions as an allegory of Waits' own nonconformity.

Like the man next door, Tom Waits keeps to himself, working in the spirit of someone tinkering in a greasy workshop. In an America where any solitary activity seems to make people suspect that there's a serial killer living next door, Waits, thank God, remains deeply private an introvert doing his own thing while everyone around him tries to

second-guess the next big trend. "What's he building in there?" mutters the song's curiosity-maddened speaker. "He never waves when he goes by He's hiding something from the rest of us... he's all to himself." Not a bad way of putting

A longer version of this interview appears in the April edition of

A very human drama

THEATRE UNCLE VANYA MERCURY THEATRE COLCHESTER

WITH THE household in uproar and her uncle going rapidly off the rails, Sonya appeals to the professor's better nature. "You must show him some compassion." she begs. The professor, alas, is too self-obsessed even to countenance someone else's point of view, let alone sympathise with it. A really fine Chekhov pro-

duction, such as David Hunt's excellent Uncle Vanya, reveals that however selfishly his characters may behave, they are all written with supreme compassion. It is this that makes the experience of watching his plays so overwhelming.

The knock-on effect of this extraordinary humanity is that, unlike writers whose subsidiary characters are there to move the plot or merely to reflect the lives of the protagonist, in Chekhov even actors in small roles rightly imagine that at any given moment the play is all about them. Indeed, this play could easily be entitled "Yelena, the Professor", or "Astrov".

about balance. Cast it unevenly to show her his plans for his The audience gasps, but Hunt To 24 April (01206 573948)



or push one actor to the fore, and the play falls lopsidedly. Get the balance right, as Hunt does, and the audience spends an entire evening hanging upon every moment, discovering hidden depths in the play and switching sympathies.

Take the series of confrontations, beginning with young, plain Sonya's confession that for the past six years she has secretly been in love with the idealistic Dr Astrov. Rachel Dowling as Yelena seizes the For the director, the job is all initiative. When Astrov arrives Floy' catches sight of them.

beloved forest, Hunt lets Yelena control the scene by placing her not in the chair that Astrov suggests, but one in a much more powerful position, thus forcing Astrov to defer to her. It's a tiny, brilliant touch that not only dictates the tone of the scene, but also sets up a status game that charges up the following confrontation as Astrov makes urgent, passion-

ate love to Yelena. At this point, the hapless Vanya (a holdly foolish Gregory

thrillingly stretches the moment of discovery almost beyond endurance, allowing us to register surprise, amusement and terror on top of one another as Vanya stares at them from the other side of the stage.

David Knapman's bleached wood set allows for a supremely intelligent use of wide space which is filled by the beautifully placed playing of Mike Poulton's vivid, fluid translation, wonderfully pivoted between darkness and laughter. The cast are never afraid to let a moment resonate in stillness, a sure sign of strength in understatement. In the final scene, when Astrov tries in vain to help gawky, gauche Sonya (Shuna Snow) step down from a chair, she speaks volumes in silence in her deeply touching refusal to look at him.

Amid worries about the collapse of regional repertory theatre, forming an ensemble company with no star names to do exciting work rather than programming cheap tours is a seriously brave option. Mounting Chekhov on just three-anda-half weeks' rehearsal is braver still. To do it so successfully is cause for celebration.

DAVID BENEDICT

THE WEEK IN RADIO

PIP TORRENS



by the four still standing 220-year-olds along their journey from pasty-faced little oiks in 1964 to the desiccoted samurai/ lovable cabbie status they occupy today. "We'd only play, like, four numbers and that would be it... not very good for our creativity." mused Mick Jagger pathetically. Keith Richards drolly described guiding the Chief Constable of Chester in full regalia over the rooftops, on his labyrinthine municipal escape route, at some point

in the Sixties. Between sublime guitar riffs, the three senior Stones and Young Ronnie Wood trundled along Memory Lane in a metaphorical limo. The boys fondly admitted almost no recollection of the vast Hyde Park concert of 1969; they were, appropriately, so stoned that Charlie Watts,

from what even now sounded like a very reclined position, recalled only "the butterflies"... "and my wife being hit on the back of the head by a sandwich".

Keith conceded that these days, their tours "are an eternal quest to turn a football stadium into the Station Hotel, Richmond". Radio 2 ironically illustrated this by playing a track from the famously intimate El Mocambo Club concert of 1976. Narrated by the incongruously pukkasounding Paul Jones, himself a contender for Jagger's place in the very early days, this was all admirably witty and selfdeprecating.

In contrast, over on the grandiosely named Broadcasting House (Radio 4. Sunday), Eddie Mair had Paul Carberry dragged out of bed at first light to describe just how it felt to be the Grand National winner the morning after the night before. It is said that Keith Richards once went without any sleep for a fortnight; here the luckless jockey dozed fitfully against the microphone while Mair.

possibly as revenge for bad bets, burbled inane questions at him before

finally letting him go. At least Carberry was spared a grilling by John Mind Your Ankles Humphrys. What is happening to this broadcaster? Some radio mandarins have got his cage permanently rattled; I recall him decorously reading the television news in 1982, at about the time I went to see the Stones' (supposedly) farewell concerts. Now, rather like a prize Airedale with distemper, he is, as they say at the Kennel Club, "temperamental".

Interviewees take their seat only to find that Humphrys has figuratively plucked it away from under them and is already in breezy mid-tirade, leaving them hopping on the back foot through the ensuing damage limitation. Charlie Watts wouldn't put up with that. As he once said, 35 years with the band translates as five years playing and 30 years sitting around. Watch out Humphers, here comes that sandwich again. Fetch!

ell rears after the and conductor is di

aya.e.

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OVERVIEW

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ON AIEM

The Independent 17 April 1999

IE WEEKEND REVIEW

By Barney Hoskyns

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A TANKE r oods da teres 😉 . Canz o describilità - Register ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರಚಿಕ್ರಪತ್ರಿಕ ್ಷ ಕಟ್ಟಿಯಾಗಿ 192 _____m Unfortunately, they weren't.

We gradually realised that the Lyrical Lounge didn't have do. Despite having a few proper musicians on stage, includ-

Barenboim's Berlin battle

Ten years after the Wall came down, the Israeli pianist and conductor is dividing the city. By Michael Church

he curtain is falling at the Berlin Staatsoper, but even before it has hit the floor the boos begin. "That's normal for a the glory of Communist East Berlin Harry Kupfer show," says my neighbour "As far as he's concerned, the more boos the better." But I notice that those who are booing are also simultaneously clapping, and that a love-in is developing on stage between the rumpled director and an equally rumpled Daniel Barenboim hauled up from the pit.

The contradictory orgy goes on. with nobody wanting to leave; the new Tannhauser has lived superbly up - and down - to expectations. The opera is nobly acted and gorgeously sung, but its staging is in every sense problematic. Kupfer's Venusberg is meant to represent the realm of the artist's imagination, but the assembled nudes who emerge from its grotto are a weird melange of Pompeii victims, Alma-Tadema bathing beauties and a gilded figure reminiscent of Shirley Bassey dancing through the credits to Goldfinger. The action swings back and forth through the centuries until the whole thing is blown away in a gale of dead leaves.

There may be stars on stage, but the real hero of the evening is the taining of the sound. Things went ture, gives me an earful which, later do I learn that there is a per-

Staatsoper music director himself. wrong in the Thirties when it was de-Barenboim has long dreamt of mounting a complete Wagner cycle here; for him its realisation on Berlin's most historic stage - once

- is an event of immense significance. "In this theatre I have been following the cultural path that Germany has taken, and which led it so tragically astray in the Thirties," he tells me. "Was there something atavistic in Germany - or in Germans - which made the Hitler phase question, through music, in Berlin," But Barenboim is tired of attacks

on Wagner's anti-Semitism. "If he'd written a clearly anti-Semitic opera. I certainly wouldn't conduct it. His operas are anti-Semitic only in so far as they were part of their zeitgeist - the way the English mocked Indians in the Fifties, or white Americans the blacks. In 19th-century Germany you almost had to be at least mildly anti-Semitic."

But he draws a sharp distinction cultural nationalism, regarding the latter as benign. "Who wants, in orchestral music, a homogenised international sound? In German language you can hear the broad upbeat you find in performances by Klemperer or Furtwangler, that sus-

cided that only Germans were capable of producing that German sound, an assumption of racial superiority that lives on in Serbia."

Then he offers an illustration. "Claudio Arrau was, in many ways, the most German of pianists, yet he was born in Chile, and was pure Latin in his tastes. But culturally he felt part of the German tradition. So it is possible; it just requires an artist with curiosity and intelligence. And from the public, an acceptance that inevitable? I wanted to ask that somebody who is not German really can play in the German way.

Coming from this most Germanic of modern planists - whose training was at home in Argentina - these words have a particular resonance. His love-affair with the German tradition started when he spent the summer of his 12th year listening to Furtwangler rehearse, and it continued with his collaboration with the Berlin Phil in the Eighties. "When I was invited to join the Staatsoper, I didn't hesitate: I felt I was coming between political nationalism and home. In that situation - with the Wall just down, and everything being rethought from scratch - anything seemed possible." And, as London audiences recently discovered, Barenboim has delivered the goods.

empty for many days each month. "And yet the Staatsoper gets the second-biggest subsidy in Germany!" Barenboim, he says through gritted teeth, is protected by a contract Or has he? Lutz von Pufendorf, that lasts until 2002; by the end of our talk he is red-faced with anger. Only Berlin's secretary of state for cul-

to turn it into a mini-Bayreuth he has

driven away the Staatsoper's trad-

itional audience. Other crimes are

duplication of programmes offered

by the Deutsche Oper, West Berlin's

opera house, and leaving his stage

coming from a top civil servant, is sonal subtext: he had applied for the astonishing. Barenboim's Wagner job of Staatsoper Intendant, but fixation is "ridiculous" and inapprowas vetoed by Barenboim himself. priate for the small house; by trying Barenboim shrugs him off: "He's

here to make his political career, I'm

حكدًا من الاصل

here to make music." But from Georg Quander, the current Staatsoper Intendant, I get a rebuttal that reflects all the hopes and anxieties assailing the new Berlin. Quander concedes that the pre-1989 audience has gone, partly because ticket prices have risen by many thousand per cent in the post-Communist era. The building is now exquisitely refurbished, but a

question-mark hangs over its com-

pany's survival.

As it does over many institutions in this city. It's being suggested that, with eight orchestras and three opera houses, Berlin is musically overprovided. But, as Barenboim puts it, "They're providing enough money for nobody to die, but for

nobody to live properly." Everywhere you go in this glorified building-site of a capital, you find vast civic ambition fed by talent from abroad. Kent Nagano, who has just been appointed to succeed Vladimir Ashkenazy as artistic director of the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, says he was attracted by the electricity in the air. And one of the two

soon-to-be-vacated podium at the Berlin Phil is our own Simon Rattle.

The other is Barenboim, though he clams up when questioned about it. He admits that he wants to reduce his conducting to eight months a year and spend the rest of his time at the piano. He's also embarked on a collaborative book about culture with the historian Edward Said.

The prospect of his departure saddens many. "When Barenboim conducts, it's like playing chamber music," says one musician. "When he's in town, it's great," says the mezzo Waltraud Meier. "But when he isn't, the energy flags. If he were favoured contenders for Abbado's to go, it would be a catastrophe."



Daniel Barenboim's tenure as Intendant of the Berlin Staatsoper has been stormy, but musically successful

In your own time...

NOWADAYS, EVERY jazz festival has its funky Friday-night crowd-pleaser. Cheltenham's In the Mix" - "a night of serious grooves driven by hard beats" - looked good on paper, with Ninja Tune's The Herbaliser sharing the bill with consist of jazz-funk musos with two turntables stuck in the DJ Pogo was another matter. "Are you ready?" the MCs kept saying with ever-increasing urgency as the start-time was de-

JAZZ CHELTENHAM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

ing Nikki Yeoh on keyboards, the band hadn't just failed to re-DJ Pogo's Lyrical Lounge. hearse, they'd not even talked That The Herbaliser seemed to to each other in the van on the way up. As this was Cheltenham rather than Brooklyn, the gent, but the evening emphasised the pressing need for a government-appointed ombudsman for DJs, to investigate layed. We were ready all right. short measures and sharp practices in this increasingly troublesome sector.

Proper jazz was resumed a clue what they were going to the following day at the Everyman Theatre, when Nikki Yeoh looked much happier directing

her own big band, Infinitum +, in an impressive set. Later. the French pianist Martial Solal displayed a superbly sure touch on the Steinway. It's 40 years since Solal composed and played the sound-track to Jean-Luc Godard's A Bout de Souffle, but he hasn't dated. or their musical virtuosity. Solal deconstructed careworn standards such as "Summertime" with an easy, laconic air performance.

Nothing in the weekend, however, could compete with the American trumpeter Dave Douglas, Appearing on Sunday night with his "Tiny Bell Trio", Douglas revealed himself to be the most impressive new voice in jazz for years. Mixing up original compositions with the odd bit of Thelonious Monk, and "re-

composed" anthems by Robert Schumann. Douglas and his hand of Jim Black on drums and Brad Shepik on guitar achieved the remarkable feat of being playfully post-modern without compromising either the seriousness of their intent

Compared with Douglas, even the American saxophonist Joe Lovano seemed to hark ck to another era. Though he played fluently on a range of horns, his boppish patterns lost some of their intensity in the enormous space of the Town Hall. No doubt he will be on great form in the more intimate setting of Ronnie Scott's, where he plays for the rest of this week. After Dave Douglas. everything else is a little pallid. PHIL JOHNSON

The clowning chameleon LEANDRE ENTERS, warily,

looking like a personification of the Isaac Bashevis Singer line "My valise would not close, and I fastened it with string I had bought from the blind beggars". From his two suitcases he cautiously extracts props

that seem encouraging but appearance is worrisome, which plunge him deeper into terror and misery. A pair of umbrellas become wings that too imaginative, his emotions ail him then a leaky hoat that makes him the prey of a carni-Some of his material is vorous clam, the transitions rather elemental, too. No one

out of place in Bicycle Thieves, pulled down and turned up, a jacket clutched tightly over his rounded shoulders, a waistcoat and cravat. He has no

of a film montage.

PERFORMANCE LEANDRE HACKNEY EMPIRE

LONDON shirt. God knows what happened to the shirt. Though his whimsical, pathetic, he doesn't live down to it: his clowning is

taking place with the deftness who has spent Christmas in Leandre's native Barcelona. A figure who would not be where bad children are given marzipan turds, will be sur-Leandre wears a hat that is prised to see that one of his props is a toilet seat. It remains a toilet seat. Far from playing up to the audience, he regards it with annoyance or perplexity,



Leandre: puzzling

responding to applause, for instance, by looking puzzled, turning round and clapping the backcloth.

Sometimes Leandre manages to triumph, if only over himself. As a cunning fish, he scoffs the bait of a fisherman.

then uses the hook to clean his teeth, and, smirking, attaches it to an old shoe. Constructing a dance partner out of three long pieces of tape. Leandre gets so carried away that she becomes a crumpled mass of tangles. He mourns her, tries to bury the remains, but finds that, even in extremis, she won't let go.

Leandre was enjoyed by ildren as mu but, should you take your sprogs, be prepared. Like the small girl behind me they may well ask, when Leandre pulls a condom over his head and prepares to dive through a slit in a red circle, "What's he supposed to be?"

RHODA KOENIG

whom he also plays. The fish Ends tonight (0181-985 2424)



Todd Solondz's second picture is a comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy. It examines the complex relationships of a middle-class family from suburban New Jersey.

The first British retrospective for the Moscow-born painter Wassily Kandinsky, co-founder of der Blaue Reiter and widely acknowledged as the originator of abstract art.

"I think you have to admit that the

tension," opined Tom Lubbock. "A

pictures are not much good... he simply can't do energy and he can't do

painting by Kandinsky is hard to grasp

deliberated The Guardian, adding "It is

all a bit unconvincing." "The marvellous

disintegration goes hand in hand with

reformation. The orchestration of line,

as a stable mental image, although

fragments will stick in your mind,

thing about his best work is that

shape and colour is managed with

panache. But his last pictures are

wet, wet, wet," declared the

New Statesman.



John Caird rescripts and directs Leonard Bernstein's comic operetta Candide with Simon Russell Beale as Voltaire and Daniel Evans as Candide.

"Caird's version is more faithful to

Voltaire's ideas and has impressive

clarity, but the plodding rhythm of his

production means that it fails to take

fire," decided David Benedict. "It comes

up trumps," cried the Financial Times,

involved carry it along its long journey.

adding, "all the energies of those

until it arrives at a rich blend of

wisdom and innocence." "Plenty of

CRITICAL VIEW

OUR VIEW

ON VIEW

OVERVIEW

"Hilarious, heart-rending and occasionally horrifying," wrote Anthony Quinn. "Happiness leaves you with a nasty taste in the mouth, but it also leaves you feeling oddly moved, even enlightened," reflected The Guardian. There has never been a better film about desperation," noted the Financial Times, adding, "If there is a better film this year, we must establish a new Thanksgiving Day." "Poisonous but gripping," remarked The Times. "Exhilarating and illuminating," cried Time Out. "Outstanding... original, funny, humane and discurbing," reflected the Daily Mail.

Both enlightening and distressing, Happiness reaffirms Todd Solondz as a brilliant young writer-director.

Happiness is out on general release,

certificate 18, 140 mins

Though Kandinsky is important in the evolution of modern art, he looks more imitator than innovator.

and enquines, call 0171-300 5760

Kandinsky is at the Royal Academy. London W1, until 4 July. For bookings Voltaire's sardonic comedy and dry, wry outrage." declared The Times while The Guardian deemed it, "Easily the most coherent [version] I have seen". "As beautiful as anything on the London stage." stated the Daily Telegraph. Despite being a vivid

rendering of Voltaire's ideas. Caird's production is hindered

Candide is at the Olivier, RNT, London SE1. For bookings and enquiries call 0171-452 3000

EXCELLENT

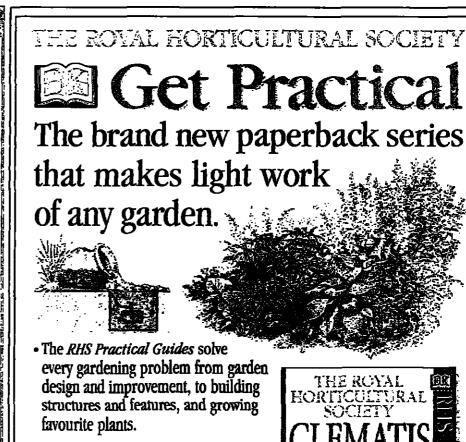




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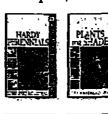
DEADLY

by its lumbering pace.



 Packed with colour illustrations, and full of essential information from top

• At any field each, these guides are compact, attractive and great value.



gardening experts.



















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First an Hon., always a rebel, Emma Tennant is causing explosions again. John Walsh talks to her

alfway through Emma Tennant's shimmery memoir, Girlitude (Cape, £15.99), she runs into Bruce Chatwin. Yellowskinned with jaundice, the ephebic nomad is in bed at the Paduan villa rented by his artist lover, Teddy Millington-Drake. Undismayed by Chatwin's flamboyant homosexuality, Ms Tennant falls for him instantly. She, Bruce and Teddy hit the road together and drive to a Palladian dream-house in search of a sixth-century BC fragment of marble statuary, featuring the hips and bottom of a nameless Greek athlete. After a long wait, Bruce appears, his arms wrapped around the marmoreal bum, which he manhandles into his car en route, not to Sotheby's, but to his own

The Italian home of the sculpted posterior is the Villa Malcontenta and Emma Tennant wonders, rhetorically: "Where and how in England could the white pillars and rotunda and the name - Misery Hall, Villa Discontent - exist?". The answer, of course, is: in her head. For on the evidence of this grimly absorbing confessional – full though it is of vivid scenes, like the above - the author spent most of her early life in a state of chronic disaffection.

Though she was born into the moneyed, eccentric Tennant dynasty, into a Fifties world of debutante balls, private gambling dens, angostura bitters, imperturbable butlers and couples who called each other "Duck", her memories are mostly of melancholy, frustration and disastrous choices in l'amour.

"Some people have said, 'You're very hard on yourself', as if you might want to write something where you left pleased with yourself," she says with a laugh. "But it's not a sad book. It's a way of showing that I could only be happy when I'm writing, and about a time when I wasn't or couldn't. I didn't go to university, I hardly went to school, but I grew up among people well versed in Henry James and Proust, and just felt this endless, total inadequacy."

Her mother's friends included Cyril Connolly and Stephen Spender. Her aunt married the philosopher Richard Wollheim. She fell so much under the thrall of the novelist, Henry Green, a distant relation via the family cat's-cradle of Tennants and Wyndhams, that she married his son Sebastian - just as she was later to marry Alexander Cockburn out of, it seems, a generalised love for his family and his father. Claud.

Literary obsessions and family connections - and vice versa - form twisted pat-: weave or L She is well-known as both a serious novelist and an aristocratic rebel. Brought up in Scotland, in the Gothic family mansion called Glen, the eldest daughter of Christopher, Baron Glenconner, whose great-aunt married the prime minister Asquith, she was expected to live in the condition of financially secure arrested development she calls "girlitude" - "expected to have babies and imitate your parents' life".

Instead, she demanded independence. hung out with the jeunesse dorée of Italy and America, and married into the worlds of satire (Private Eye founder Christopher Booker) and radical journalism (Alexander Cockburn). "I did get out by virtue of having one thing - a flat or house. The family provided it, yes - but I forced it out of them when they sold the family business and all the shares went to the men."

Social gossips. from the Fifties onwards.



EMMA TENNANT, A BIOGRAPHY

Emma Tennant was born in 1937, daughter of the second Baron and Lady Glenconner, and was brought up in a castle near Peebles. After attending a finishing school and studying art history, she was a debutante and then became a journalist with Queen and Vogue. She published her first novel, The Colour of Rain, in 1964, and The Time of the Crack in 1973. In 1975 she founded

the literary magazine Bananas, and edited it until 1978. Later novels include Hotel de Dream (1976), The Bad Sister (1978), Alice Fell (1980), Black Marina (1985), and sequels to classics such as Pemberley (1993) and Elinor and Marianne (1996). Last year she published a family memoir, Strangers. She has two daughters and a son, and lives in west London.

derided her rejection of upper-class values. She was the champagne Bohemian, the girl who "put the Che in Cheyne Walk". Ensconced at the top of Waldorf Towers, the most expensive building in New York, she "could have her grouse and eat it", the British papers said. Fans of her novels, meanwhile, could wonder about the psychodramas of The Bad Sister, Queen of Stones, Black Marina and Faustine, with their pacts with the devil, their obsessions with power, evil, abandonment, the dark side of femininity.

"I didn't want to write a romp, like Joan Wyndham's Love Lessons," said the author when we met in her west-London flat, where silhouettes of her ancestors and Grand National betting forms sit together on the mantelpiece. "I was inspired by W G Sebald, my hero, and Luc Sante, who wrote Belgitude.

I told my mother, 'I'm going to make it really flat and dull'. She said, 'Darling, I don't think you've had a life that would make that possible'

Mother is right. Tennant's shilling life is a chronicle of adventures with corrupt and striking men, from Dominic Elwes (who deflowers her and leaves her pregnant) to Gore Vidal, Chatwin, Norman Mailer and a floating population of swells at her house in Chelsea. The book is full of texture clothes, food, houses, colours - and image clusters, the gold of private casinos, the whitening "chlorine liquor" on which the family fortune was based. London before the Sixties explosion is briefly sketched as a dismal place, where, she now says, "you took the number three or 53 bus up Regent Street to Galerie Lafayette, but rich and up-

alternative was to buy 'a Horrocks' - a grim cotton ball-dress trying to look like sprigged muslin, if you couldn't afford a gorgeous real ball-gown."

She glided through three disastrous marriages ("Things were so different then, you couldn't live with somebody if you had a child; I'm afraid you married thoughtlessly") and worries obsessively in the book about changing sex. Asked about this theme, she relates it directly to her family. "It just means, why wasn't I the eldest son of this place - Glen - and why didn't I inherit the most beautiful place on earth?" The prodigal daughter is much on show throughout. epater-ing the bourgeois for all she's worth.

A third volume of memoirs, The Notting Hill Diaries, is still to come, evoking The perclass women had dressmakers. The Emma Seventies, when she set up the lit- at last.

erary magazine Bananas. It's mostly remembered as a showcase for fantastical modern prose, under the spell of recent imports from South America and Europe. "Borges and Marquez and The Moster and Margarita were suddenly available in shops that, until then, had been selling the equivalant of those Horrocks dresses." Bananas published the fantasy fictions of Michael Moorcock and J G Ballard ("The first line of the book is 'Wham! The manuscript of Crash lands on my bed, on my recumbent figure'"). Angela Carter's mod-Gothic reworkings of Perrault's fairy tales - "The Company of Wolves", "The Erl-King" - first appeared in its pages. And it brought Ted Hughes into Emma's life.

Ms Tennant is riding a new wave of controversy with the news that she is sitting on a 150-page narrative about her passionate affair with Hughes in the late Seventies, when he was married to Carol, now his widow. It has become the most talkedabout document in literary London. She says a US publisher is interested ("She said she found it very poetic, very moving. She said, 'Of course, it's a love letter to Sylvia Plath' ") but clams up about its immediate

fate in this country.

Some people are already accusing her of cashing in on Hughes's death. "I don't mind people saying 'Isn't she shocking?' and 'Isn't it awful?'," said this seasoned veteran of public disapproval, "and actually I think it would be slightly awful it it were in the shops now. But once a certain time has

elapsed, though...". She met Hughes at a *Bananas* party in autumn 1976, then later at the Arvon Foundation in Lumb Bank, Yorkshire. She proudly showed me a couple of books Hughes had inscribed to her from those days. One is Franz Bardon's Initiation into Hermetics. a treatise on magic published in Germany. Hughes has dedicated it "To Emma", with outspread eagles' wings drawn on either side of her name, an "as ever, Ted" - and from the "d" of Ted, he has drawn a chain of links leading down to an anchor. "The wings suggest I'm a free spirit while he's chained up," she said, "but I wasn't free at all. I had children, a mortgage, I was try-

ing to run a magazine. It was a fantasy." What had brought them together? "Well, pretentious though it may sound, I think he wanted to have something to do with a writer. He was wonderful about my work. I'd never have written The Bad Sister since you mention the book - if I hadn't known him. And I do believe Hughes had a kind of magic. Anything and anyone connected to him - and to Plath - became surrounded by weird coincidences. When my strapped, a cheque arrived next day from my Greek publishers who'd just bought two of my books for £500. These things still happen all the time, because of him."

Had she been in love with Hughes? "Like the Prince of Wales, I don't accept the term. I never have. The fascination of somebody with original creative gifts is something that's always drawn me. I get attached to them but I can't call it being in love, because the words are so debased. My life has really been about writing, though some think it's all about once having been in a ball dress and having an odd life and marrying all the time. But it's the writing that's always been

There's a tiny note of triumph in Emma Tennant's voice that the two strands of her life, the passionate-creative and the socialrebellious, have become so gratifying joined

COVER STORIES



CLOSE ON 40 years after the assassination of JFK, our fascination remains as great as ever. Now comes news that Peter Cox of literary agency Litopia has uncovered a "mystery woman". "Judith" was allegedly the lover of Lee Harvey Oswald in the months leading up to November 1963 despite being married, and a Mormon to boot. Now she has emerged from the shadows with a manuscript which, says Cox, contains "an incredible amount of convincing detail" to persuade him she did indeed have an affair with Oswald, one ended only by Jack Ruby's bullets. Cox plans to introduce Judith to publishers at Book Expo in LA later this month.

STEVE MACDONOGH, the Kerry publisher who so upset Mrs T with One Girl's War, the memoirs of a former MI5 officer which helped pave the way for Peter Wright, seems set to anger a British government again this autumn with Days in Ireland: Bernard O'Mahoney's account of his years with the British Army in Ireland. Born in England to Irish Catholic parents, he joined up to avoid jail, at a time when Irish units were exempt from duty in the province. When this changed, O'Mahoney reports the story of an officer who advised his men that, if they shot, they should kill outright - as a dead man couldn't dispute the Army's version. A crate of beer was allegedly promised to the first soldier to "kill a paddy".

THE EMERGENCE at the funeral of François Mitterrand of his love-child Mazarine Pingeot was a surprise to everyone. How proud he would now be at her emergence as a novelist. French critics have compared her to de Beauvoir and Sagan. In June, the British can decide when First Novel is published by Fourth Estate. It is the story of Agatha (like Mazarine, a philosophy graduate), the daughter of a with a past too painful to recall.

MICHAEL Owen has grabbed headlines with the news that HarperCollins have paid him at least £1m for three books. A memoir is included. although some think twentysomething a little soon for that. More sensible, perhaps, to do what David Seaman is doing - wait until your valedictory season. Orion have paid what was (until Owen's deal) the largest advance ever to a player. They will publish as the Arsenal goalie kicks off his final season.

THE LITERATOR

Steps through the narrow door into another world

Once dismissed as commercial poison, short stories have bounced back to offer readers a spring tonic. Carol Birch chooses the pick of the crop

by publishers as a commercial non-starter, only to be considered in the case of wellestablished sellers. Happily, this attitude seems to have been undergoing a gradual change, and this spring sees a

THE SHORT-STORY collec- the power and diversity of a tion has traditionally been seen sometimes under-rated medium. That so many of the current offerings come from new voices is further proof of a new confidence in the form.

Shena Mackay, of course, is an old hand. Most of the stories in The World's Smallest Unifine crop that amply illustrates corn have already appeared

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see page 35

THE INDEPENDENT magazine

elsewhere. Fans will find here all the Mackay hallmarks: mischievous wit, merciless lampooning of just about everyone. sudden bursts of brilliant description. Here, for example, from the title story, is a hot day in south London: "traffic and people pushing buggies hung about with children toiled up and down the hill in furny sunshine splintered by the drills of roadworks and thumped by music from passing cars. The engine of a parked lorry throbbed like a thousand headaches and the sirens of a posse of police cars swooped and looped the loop;

sive edge." The beauty is in the detail with Shena Mackay: I'm not so sure about the overall design. Her stories sometimes have the feel of truncated novels, and she spends a lot of time filling the reader in on background details. Potted biographies, quick character sketches and hurried asides abound. Writers, media people, well-heeled trendy professionals - these are the denizens of Mackay's hardedged, crowded and often ec-

the leaden air had an aggres-

centric tales. Mackay's stories are traditional. in that she is not trying to push the boundaries of the



Smallest Unicorn by Shena Mackay Jonathan Cape, £12.99, 223pp

Samson's début Lying in Bed, though with more of a sense of constraint. In the best, "Wasted Time", the violence of her parents' marriage is seen through the eyes of a lonely child, whose best friends are the children "next door" for whom she makes sandwiches and to whom she reads. The fact that "next door" is the graveyard is poignant rather than macabre.

Samson is a sympathetic and observant narrator, much concerned with relationships and the ticking of biological clocks. Occasionally, the stories echo each other. In the title story, unhappy Sally, coming to terms with the fact that she must lie in the bed she has form. So, too are, those in Polly made for herself with a partner own sake is not Faber's over-



by Polly Samson Virago, £14.99, 213pp

she does not love, weaves a fantasy around the couple sitting at the next table, who in turn become the focus of the following story, "The Mermaid's Purse". These are clever, elegant pieces, complex, compact and memorable.

endless variety, Michel Faber's first collection. Some Rain Must Fall, takes the prize. From the absurdities of real life to strange science-fiction scenarios, in locations throughout and beyond the world, he weaves fascinating stories of the mundane and the bizarre. But though the unexpected is immanent even in the most normal setting, sheer novelty for its



Other Stories by Ali Smith Granta. £9.99. 177pp

riding concern. Rather, he harnesses the surreal and off-beat in order to express something quite profound and touching. His sense of wonder and bigheartedness calls to mind the better stories of Ray Bradbury, and he has a wonderful ability For sheer inventiveness and to push a whimsy to its extreme

with magical results. In "Toy Story", God is a lonely child who finds a discarded planet while mucking about in the trash at the back of an abandoned universe. God's love for his treasure creeps into his dreams: "Tired out from playing all day, he would notice the little bluegreen world through eyes already half closed. Usually he fell



Some Rain Must Fall by Michael Faber Canongate, £8.99, 242pp

travelling there, shrunk down to the appropriate size... in these dreams, his tiny grown-up self was constantly surrounded by other people, driven by a mission; and yet, perversely, he craved aloneness and the freedom to play in silence."

Another bold and sensitive writer is Ali Smith, who has already produced one fine novel and a previous collection of stories. Other Stories is full of slight, small pieces, concerned less with events than frames of mind and feelings.

Smith has a talent for stringing together seemingly unrelated events, which defy rational justification but nevertheless feel absolutely right asleep then, and dreamed of together; as in "More Than

One Story", in which an old man recalls the death of his brother and a girl relives an early sexual encounter. Neighbours linked only by a cheery hello, their unity is an impressionistic affair, one feels, and deeply intuited.

Smith's prose, simple, direct and loaded, is a joy. Like the Tardis, these delicate, exquisite stories contain far more than their size would appear to allow. Her generosity of spirit excludes no one and her work is imbued with the knowledge of transience and human vulnerability; themes she returns

to again and again. The best kinds of short stories leave the reader feeling that they could not have been told in any other way. Nothing needs to exist beyond the boundaries of the story itself, though much may be implied. In Ali Smith's case, less is more. Taken with the rest of the crop, this is proof indeed that the short story is alive and thriving

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'One Englishman, an idiot; two, a sporting event; three, an empire.' Felipe Fernández-Armesto counts the cost of imperial habits

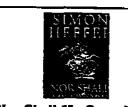
Land of bards, balls and battles

about the future. Superficially, Millennium England looks like a hopeless case. The empire is lost, the lips unstiffened. In doomfraught imaginations, the next humiliations are already scheduled: secession by the rest of the UK, submersion in the European superstate, dismemberment by Blairite regionalism, and displacement to Germany for the 2006 World Cup. The flag of St George flutters on sporting terraces. But the Georgies have little to cheer: a Davis Cup Dunkirk, second place in the Five Nations' Championship, Ashes to ashes. Even speech-makers at Tory conferences have stopped mangling paeans to "this blessed plot", for Englishness is a dangerous identity in the multicultural society which depends for survival on the mutual tolerance of its communities.

As English history yields to "British Studies", realisation grows that the other peoples who share the British state have made a disproportionate contribution to its fortunes. The big new demand in British universities is for courses on Australian history: intellectual foam from television soap. Meanwhile, as the former European Community struggles to transform itself into a Union, the English are self-relegated to the edge. From being the centre of a world empire, they have become the periphery of a world region. The current re-evaluation reflects a characteristic English virtue: Combridge University Press. £35, 302pp in any list of defining ingredients, self-deprecation would occupy an honoured place. The world has come to believe the English when they speak with affected modesty.

Yet is England really over? Backs -to-the-wall is a favourite posture. Dunkirk spirit turns disaster into myth. From other collapsed superstates, resurgent nationalisms have emerged. If the end of Yugoslavia enhances the pride of Serbs and Slovenes, why shouldn't the fall of Britain mean the rise of England?

Simon Heffer has issued a summons to "the reinvention of England". Most of his book, however, is: about Scotland, which Heffer urges towards independence in frank anxiety to get rid of a lot of "instinctive" England will find a new use for Scotssocialists". When the author divulges his vision of England, the



Nor Shall My Sword: the reinvention of England by Simon Heffer

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99, 134pp



by Stefan Collini

Oxford University Press, £13.99, 348pp



British Identities Before Nationalism

by Colin Kidd

reader is repelled. The English are unrecommended except as "a simple and politically unsophisticated people", a "race" with whose way of life immigrants must integrate though Heffer generously allows that "at home and in their communities and places of worship children from the minorities can of course speak their own languages".

Illustrating his own claim that optimism is an English characteristic, he looks forward to an England restored to "self-respect" by welfare cuts and enriched by the £8bn governments squander annually in their futile effort to buy Scottish votes. His men as "Tartan Gurkhas".

Heffer's relish for this future

seems insincere: his denunciations of the Union are like a lover's dispraise. He is making the best of a bad iob and calls on the Tories to become the party of English nationalism, but the Union may survive - in which case, such a policy will be a disaster. Everything Heffer writes is enjoyable because of his vigour and candour, but this tract is the bark of a toothless bulldog.

Readers may feel Heffer leaves them patchily informed about the history of the Union. They will find some fascinating lessons in Colin Kidd's book on British identities in the 17th and 18th centuries. Here again the focus is on Britishness, and centre and periphery seem inverted. The English become marginal to the other communities Kidd surveys - Scots, Irish and colonial Americans. Scottish identity, we learn, is not a recent invention and owes almost as much to William Wallace as to Mel Gibson; but for centuries it persisted in a world where Lowland Scots were glad that they had more in common with the English than

Irishness was a fog in which the "Protestant Irish Nation" had myths every wisp as misty as those which sustained Catholic nationalism. The American revolution was a provincial movement of "free-born Englishmen". Most revealingly, Kidd shows how for most of his period "Celt" and "Saxon" were not thought of as contrasting terms, but shared a common framework of legend.

with the Highlanders and Islanders.

Kidd's book is really a collection of essays and this is explicitly the form of Stefan Collini's book of pièces d'occasion, largely re-written to be fresh and topical. At his best - and these essays show him at his best - Collini is one of the sharpest observers and most mordant critics in English academic life. He can be deftly destructive: John Carey, Noel Annan, Bertrand Russell, Raymond Williams and Isaiah Berlin are left bleeding. He is sometimes so faint in his praise – of Richard Hoggart, or Raphael Samuel - that when he confers approval (on John Stuart Mill. say) one feels daunted by the presence of presumed perfection.

His denunciations of the "business ethic" in universities are among the wisest writings on the subject. Most academics dig ever deeper and narrower furrows in ever drier subjects; Collini surveys the

whole field. There is not much of a theme here but it is underpinned by admirable assumptions: to be English, you do not have to forsake cosmopolitanism, eschew pluralism or recoil from foreign examples. Simon Heffer emphatically denies he is a Little Englander, but his work does seem introspective by comparison.

A great past is no guarantee of a great future. The English, however, do have an indelibly great past. Except the Jews, no people have had an influence on world history so disproportionate to their numbers. You sense this in Singapore, on a cricket green in the shadow of an English cathedral; or in Chile at a passable simulacrum of an English prep school; or, at the other end of the hemisphere, with Copper Inuit who talk English and play soccer.

Some of the most inventive productions of Shakespeare are played in Japan and Germany. The language of Hansard is heard in Harare. Two Spanish suburbs that I know of are built in imitation of English housing estates; and some Frenchmen like rugby football. which seems to me the most astonishing cultural transmission of all.

Part of the greatness of this record of influence is that it was not all won by war. Soccer and Shakespeare, for example, are vectors of Englishness which spread across the world because people liked them. But it is hard to resist the feeling or fear that the English are a people of imperial vocation which may not be exhausted. "One Englishman, an idiot", says an old joke, "two Englishmen, a sporting event; three Englishmen, an empire."

The English acquired a continental dynastic empire in the 12th century, which they lost in the 13th, conquered another in the 14th, which they lost in the 15th, settled a third in the 17th, which they lost in the 18th, and created another still. with Scottish, Irish and Welsh help, in the 19th century, before losing it in the 20th. If they maintain their present rates of overseas investment in the new millennium, they may have a business empire to rival America's or Japan's. If they keep their nerve and preserve their identity, God knows what they will do then

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto is the general editor of the Folio Society's 'History of England'



Tea and sympathy: can England regain its self-respect?

The agony and ecstasy

Kate Saunders travels in time for sound advice on sex and baby care

ways been popular. In the 19th century, you could consult Mrs Beeton about sacking servants or cooking turbot. At the end of the 20th, Rosemary Conley promises to help you to a smaller bum. In much the same way, citizens of 16th-century Florence or Rome liked to get their wisdom in bite-sized nuggets. The spread of literacy and the explosion of printed works in the vernacular creat ed a healthy market for the advice manual. Some, such as Machiavelli's The Prince and Castiglione's Book of the Courtier, have honoured places

in the canon of world literature. But who cares about military strategy, or perfect manners? How To Do It is concerned with the popular market, which mostly meant sex. Then, as now, Alex Comfort was likely to outsell Will Hutton. Rudolph M Bell uses modern hits to explain the kind of book he is studying: "The Rules fits nicely at the shallow end of the advice-manual spectrum," he says, referring to the US bestseller about how to make a man marry you. "At the opposite extreme, I



How To Do It: guides to good living for Renaissance Italians by Rudolph M Bell University of Chicago Press,

£19.95, 374pp

would place Dr Spock's recommendations on baby care." Bell prefers the shallow end, and his fascinating book is a window on a lost world far nearer to our own than we might imagine. The works deal with the nuts and bolts of living how to conceive, give birth, bring up a child. The advice was usually drawn from the wisdom of the ancients, cleverly rehashed to appeal to the newly-

literate urban middle classes. Hints about sex were often given by celibate friars. They had an interest in ensuring decent Catholic behaviour, but snippets from the confessional. Doctors of philosophy and

medicine were quick to jump on the bandwagon. Michele Savonarola, grandfather of the more famous Girolamo, reveals a heartening respect for the female orgasm. "Husband and wife should touch each other, especially he should rub his finger on the area between her clitoris and vagina since this is external zone where she gets the greatest pleasure." The wife's orgasm, he declared, is

essential for conception. For those particular about the gender of their baby, Savonarola's advice is practical, if rather painful. "When breeders want a cow to produce a bull calf, they tie the bull's left testicle; readers who want a male child should do the same." Did it work? Did anyone try?

As a mother, I was particularly interested in advice about giving birth and raising a child. Bell's section on baby care is the most beguiling, and scholarly, in the book. He questions the assumption that well-off families automatically put children out to nurse. Mother's

were not above airing choice milk was held to be best, though that did not stop rich ladies renting a boob. A poor woman could give her child to a cheap wet-nurse, suckle a wealthy child and turn a profit.

This seems heartless, but Bell sternly reminds us about unchanging economic facts. "We modern Americans might reflect on childcare arrangements provided for career families by women of colour, who somehow must attend as well to their own children." Cut through the superstition, he implies, and these old Italians can teach us a thing or two: "The manuals do not offer justification for beating children, which definitely cannot be said of what many parents read in 20th-century America."

Professor Bell comes across as a kind, liberal-minded old cove, who has caught some of the gossipy tone of his subjects. "My preference would be to set aside academic expertise," he says, "and join you instead for an informal chat, maybe over drinks or lunch." Failing that, how pleasant to read his delightful, informative and often hilarious book.

THE MAN from Libération was baffled. Why, the French paper's London correspondent asked me a few days ago, had British writers said so little about the war with Serbia? True, Harold Pinter had railed against Uncle Sam, as ever True, the Royal Court's Class of '68 (David Edgar et al) had whacked off its pro forma letters of outrage. Otherwise, those despised journalists - with their readers - have made most

of the moral running here. This was not the first time that the silence of our authors had been pointed out to me. On the first day of the bombing, I went to the launch of the British Council's latest authology. Here was a cross-section of

A WEEK IN BOOKS



BOYD TONKIN Don't mention the war to most British writers

the brightest younger stars in British writing, gathered on the night their nation launched a perilous new war. As a senior poet noted in dismay, no one present seemed to give a damn.

For once, they really do order these things better in France. There, Kosovo has re-ignited the fires of principled debate in a way that recalls the great days when Sartre slugged it out with Camus over the Gulag or Algeria. Fierce articles pro or contra Nato's war have shot from intellectual leaders: Philippe Sollers, Tzvetan Todorov, Bernard-

Henri Levy, and so on. Todorov, especially, quite refutes the lazy British prejudice that a background in structuralist theory turns one into a demonic dandy a la Michel Foucault. In fact, the author of The Poetics of Prose has emerged of late as one of Europe's subtlest ethical thinkers. His moving account of "moral life in the

concentration camps, Facing the Extreme (Weidenfeld, £20) underpins his views on ex-Yugoslavia. By the way, the translation of this luminous work came here a full eight years late.)

Meanwhile, our own

know-nothing literati can take refuge in that famous irony - the true English Ideology, one which unites Cool Brit and Young Fogey. Sometimes, I wish that British writers could take the odd holiday from irony. Of course, this war looks very messy, complex and ambiguous. But I presumed that writers did messiness, complexity and ambiguity. I thought that was what they were for. As of now, their silence is more deafening than bombs over Belgrade.

VIKRAM SETH

"IS THERE ANYTHING VIKRAM SETH CANNOT DO? Seth's novel is a wonder-work: irresistible, tense, deeply moving... It is a novel that can stand being reread and reread, but the first time round it is an emotional cliffhanger... My advice is secure a copy for yourself, settle down and prepare for the unforgettable" JOHN CAREY, SUNDAY TIMES

"The finest novel about music ever written in English. Music...is the final catharsis, 'a sufficient gift', more precious than happiness, worth any sacrifice. The same might be said of An Equal Music' DANIEL JOHNSON, DAILY TELEGRAPH

"All his books have the power to lift you out of your own life and carry you into a world of delight... It is quite unusual how happy this novel and its predecessor can make you... It is a novel of wonderful high spirits and vitality, a true enchantment. All those who delighted in A Suitable Boy will find delight here, too" ALLAN MASSIE, SCOTSMAN

"Reading Vikram Seth after Rushdie is like escaping from a rain-forest and finding you are walking in the Alps. The air is thin and cool, the path is easy and you are suddenly going very fast... Seth gives the fullest portrait I have ever read in fiction of a musician's relationship to his music... A brilliant novel" MAGGIE GEE, DAILY TELEGRAPH

"It is not only the big, mind-wrenching scenes which makes this book extraordinary. An Equal Music proves that Seth can create a haunting world that resonates in the mind long after the final page has been read" GERALD KAUFMAN, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"Where An Equal Music pleases most is in the ravishing refinement of technique, its sure placement of scenes, and the unerring truth of its portrayal of a small, enclosed social world... Will still be read with pleasure and absorption decades from now" PHILIP HENSHER, SPECTATOR

"A masterpiece... As clear, lovely and civilised as a Schubert quarter... Actually reading Seth on music is far more uplifting than the real thing? GEORGINA METCALFE, DAILY MAIL

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SPOKEN Word

BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT



Aristocrats Read by Serena Gordon HarperCollins. 3hrs, £8.99

IF GEORGETTE Heyer had decided to be a full-on historian, she would have turned out very like Stella Tillyard. This is a woman who can both smell out a story in real-life history and tell it – in as arresting a way as Stephen Runciman dealt with the Sicilian Vespers, or C V Wedgewood the Thirty Years War. Tillyard makes sense of the second half of the 18th century by seeing it through the lives of the five gutsy Lennox sisters, all granddaughters of Charles II. The result is a story which any novelist would have rejected as hopelessly unlikely, but which makes memorable listening



Thomas Hardy: selected poems Various readers Penguin. 2hrs15mins. £8.99 3hrs. £8.99

ATTENTION NEEDS to be drawn to Penguin's exceptional two-cassette poetry series which alternates the significant milestones in a poet's life with readings of his poems. In this case it is producer Martin Franks who has both chosen the poems and written the explanatory narrative. He starts with the early "Domicilium includes many of the 1912-13 Poems, and ends with "My Spirit Will Not Haunt the Mound". No problems here with soporific run-ons from poem to poem: the readers are Douglas Hodge, David Horovitch, Derek Jacobi, Jeremy Northam, Diana Quick, Prunella Scales and

Beam me up, Scotty

John Sutherland hails the clan that shed light around the craggiest of coasts

hen a long-shot like Dava Sobel's Longitude comes from nowhere to head the bestseller lists for a year, canny publishers scratch their heads. Is it a one-off or a new genre in embryo? A book about maritime navigation 200 years ago, encumbered with heavy mathematics, did not signal "runaway hit". Yet it was, and Fourth Estate are still reaping the rewards of their foresight. Sobel brought to her apparently dry subject a novelist's skill in narrative, creating what looked like a new category of entertaining-butinstructional book.

Bella Bathurst's The Lighthouse Stevensons is a worthy follow-up. The data are much the same as Longitude. We start in the 18th century. Trade and war have opened up the oceans. But navigation remains "a ramshackle skill". In the 1790s, around "550 ships were wrecked every year on British shores". Until the 1780s, the only light on the notoriously rocky, sandy and uncharted 5,000 miles of Scottish coast was a coal bonfire on the Isle of May. Some of the liveliest sections of

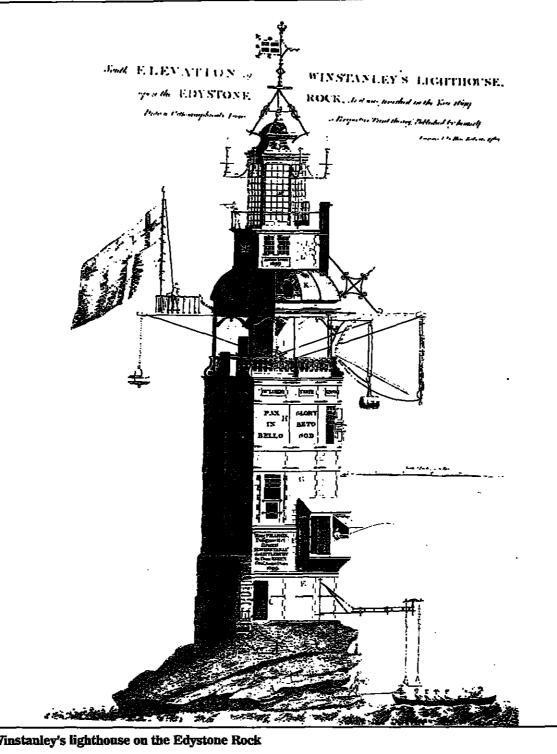


The Lighthouse Stevensons by Bella Bathurst HarperCollins, £15.99, 266pp

Bathurst's book describe the thriving wrecking trade. Whole communities prospered on mariners' misfortunes. If a wreck occurred in Cornwall while Divine Service was being held, notice of it was given out from the pulpit by the parson, as a gift from God. Where the deity was slow to give, false lights were put up, to lure mariners onto rocks. The Highlands and Islands of Scotland were a wreckers' paradise.

Enter human interest in the form of the Stevenson dynasty - a distinguished product of Scottish education, Scottish engineering genius, and the Scottish enlightenment, whose ideals they put into literal practice. The starting point of their exploits was the creation of the Northern Lighthouse Board in the 1780s. The founding father (step-father, in fact) was Thomas Smith, who graduated from streetng for Edinburgh's New Town to the post of engineer to the NLB. Smith's useful achievements were dwarfed by his stepson, Robert Stevenson. Energetic and shrewd, Robert

took over as Engineer to the Board. Having studied the Eddystone lighthouse, Robert embarked on the great work of his life - making the Scottish waters orderly and navigable. His crowning achievement was the 110-foot lighthouse on the Bell Rock between Dundee and Arbroath, a notorious hazard for boats negotiating the Firth of Tay. The sandstone reef was semi-



Winstanley's lighthouse on the Edystone Rock

Robert was obliged to battle on three fronts: against tightfisted Commissioners, rival engineers and - most formidably - the elements. The base ly under water) had to be hammered out by hand. The Bell Rock lighthouse took a decade and was finally finished, one of the wonders of modern Scotland, in 1810.

Three of Robert's four sons became Lighthouse Stevensons. The most distinguished was Alan. Despite private yearnings towards romantic poetry (which his nephew, [Robert] Louis, inherited), Alan devoted himself to incorporating new technology in the Northern lights, with ever more powerful lamps and lenses. His crowning

submerged, lashed by year-round storms, and 11 miles offshore.

work was the erection in 1842 of the storms, and 11 miles offshore.

Alan Breck are shipwrecked there in Skerryvore lighthouse, off the West Kidnopped – a family in-joke.) Coast of Scotland. So inhospitable Walter Scott put it, the Bell Rock was only competitor, he implied by "extant", was the Pharos of Alexandria).

In what was now almost a royal succession. Alan followed his father as Chief Engineer to the Board. Crippled by progressive disease (multiple sclerosis, as Bathurst guesses) his tenure was short. The family tradition was carried on by his brothers David, who constructed the Muckle Flugga lighthouse on the northernmost tip of Shetland, and by Thomas, who raised his monumental beacon at Dhu Heartach off the Ross of Mull. (David Balfour and

The line of Lighthouse Stevensons was the craggy environment that, as finishes with Thomas's son, [Robert] Louis. He made a half-hearted attempt "a joke to it". Louis called it "the no- to study engineering, but he was sickretained a strong sense of family pride. "I might write books till 1900", he wrote in 1886, "and not serve humanity so well."

Bathurst's account of the scientific heroism behind the emergence of modern navigational systems is as enthralling as Longitude, if rather more diffuse. We shall, I suspect, see many like it before the genre pioneered by Sobel is worked out. Let's hope they are all as good.

John Sutherland is professor of English at University College, London

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



by Simon Rae, Faber, £9.99,

COMMENTATORS CLUCK at the recent fashion for batsmen disputing the umpire's decision, but Rae reveals this is nothing new. In an 1896 game, W G refused to walk when clearly caught and only departed when two of his stumps were demolished. "Surely you're not going, Doc?" the bowler crowed. "There's still one stamp standing." Normal rules never applied to the bearded panjandrum. One match was held up so that he could finish his medical exams. Rae's portrait of England's greatest all-rounder is an ideal companion for a soggy test match.



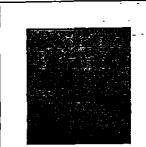
About a Boy by Nick Homby. Indigo, £6.99 286pp

A WHOLE new world of shagging opportunities opens when 36-year-old Will Freeman stumbles upon the lifechanging realisation that some of north London's most attractive women are up for grabs - just by virtue of being single mums. Inventing a two-year-old and failed marriage of his own, Will starts attending a single parent support group, notching up a result sooner than you can say picnic in the park. Wallto-wall blokeish good humour and Nineties savvy make Hornby's third novel a must-read book for the non-



The She-Pope by Peter Stanford, Artow, £7.99,

AN ENGAGING rummage in the Vatican archives probing the existence of the semimythical Pope Joan. Though Stanford found no hard evidence, he maintains that a female pontiff, born in Mainz of English extraction, reigned from 853 until her cover was blown by pregnancy two years later. Bernini was also a believer, as revealed by a risqué carving over the main altar in St significant indication of Joan's existence is a "pierced chair" used to examine the sexual apparatus of newly



The Catastrophist by Ronan Bennett. Review, £6.99,

JAMES GILLESPIE, an Irish historian turned novelist, arrives in the Congo in 1960 just in time to see history in the making. He also arrives too late to save his relationship with a young Italian journalist - a woman who, in his absence, has transferred her energies to the cause of rebel leader Patrice Lumumba. While neither of the characters is sympathetic, the author is, and the cooling of ship is told in painful, intimate detail. Like his fellow Irishman Brian Moore, Bennett isn't afraid to mix love and history.



elected Popes until 1492.

Travolta: the life by Nigel Andrews, Bioomsbury, £7.99, 346pp

LIVING PROOF that American lives do have second acts. Travolta was coasting downhill, providing voice-overs for the Look Who's Talking series, when Tarantino cast him in Pulp Fiction. An unforgettable performance, though Andrews reveals that the sy-ringe-in-the-chest trick is unfeasible. Since then, the sky's been the limit. In this snappy biography, let down by poor editing, Andrews traces the surprising trajectory of Tra-volta's career. A true star and a fine actor, he seems to be universally admired and protected, but the Scientology

business remains a mystery.



The Migration of Ghosts by Pauline Melville. Bloomsbury, £6.99, 209pp

SPIRITS ARE abroad in Pauline Melville's collection of short stories. Her ghostly apparitions include a dead South American dictator (remembering his not-so-noble student days at the LSE); a depressed wife who dramatically humiliates her husband at a Guildhall banquet in front of Gordon Brown; and a famous mime artist with one foot in the death camps. As exotic a read as her awardwinning novel The Ventriloquist's Tale, Melville switches continents, moods and bodies without missing a beat. One of the most enjoyable collections out this spring.

Award-winning fiction from the definitive biographer of Bruce Chatwin

NICHOLAS. **SHAKESPEARE**

'Shakespeare is interested in grand themes: love, vocation, politics and the corrupting power of moral and ideological absolutes... enviably good' Louis de Bernières, Sunday Times on The Dancer Upstairs ALSO AVAILABLE The High Flyer The Vision of

Elena Silves

OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK

PICADOR

INSPIRATIONS NOVELIST ROSIE THOMAS

The music I have a great fondness for sombre strings, particularly Beethoven's late quartets. A year ago I was driving across central Turkey in the Peking to Paris Rally, listening to Pergolesi's Stabat Mater. It went so well with the magnificent, huge, open countryside.

The play Under Milk Wood. At school, I was enthralled by the slyness and the comedy and the pathos of it, but most of all I was struck by the pleasure Dylan Thomas took in playing with words



and voices. It showed that writing didn't have to be serious. It could be sexy and exuberant.

The Suffolk coast from Aldeburgh northwards. I have spent many happy

the villages marooned in the landscape, and the skies that seem to stretch over an arc much greater than 180 degrees. The marshlands and shingle beaches have a dour beauty all of their own, and the bracing grey imperturbability of the North Sea never fails to soothe the spirits.

holidays there and I love

The film François Truffaut's Jules et Jim., for a dozen reasons: it is ravishing to look at and Jeanne Moreau's face stays in the mind's eye for ever, it is perfectly structured and

The artwork I love Norman Rockwell's paintings for the Saturday Evening Post covers, particularly the wartime

of the classic stories, the

shot, and it tells one

love triangle as well.

ones like Armchair General and War Bond. They have such tenderness and affection, and they deal with the comedy of ordinary lives without ever distancing

'Moon Island' by Rosie Thomas is published in July by Random House (£5.99 pb)

BESTSELLERS

It's still too early to call the great Rushdie/ Seth contest, as The Ground Beneath Her Feet, just into the chart, arrived in the shops after An Equal Music. Splitting them is a new horror yarn from Rushdie's former ad-land colleague, James Herbert. © Bookwatch Ltd. 1999

ORIGINAL FICTION

	TITLE	AUTHOR/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
(1)	Monsoon	Wilbur Smith (Macmillan)	£17.99	5,498
(3)	Charile	Lesley Pearse (Penguin)	£5.99	4.237
[10]		eer Jackie Collins (Pan)	£2.50	2,433
(-)	She's the One	Cathy Kelly (Headline)	£5.99	2,156
(8)	An Equal Music	Vikram Seth (Phoenix House)	£16.99	2,014
(2)	Come Together	Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow)	£5.99	1,985
[-]	Others	James Herbert (Macmillan)	£16.99	1,703
6}	When Morning Con	es Audrey Howard (Hodder)	£5.99	1.652
-)	The Ground Beneat	Her Feet Salman Rushdie (Cape)	£18	1,504
[7]	Sharpe's Fortress	Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins)	£16.99	1,405

— ORIGIN	ME MON-FICTION		
	/PUBLISHER	PRICE	WEEKLY SALES
Natiliest Playfair Cricket Annua	I 99 ed Bill Frindall (Headline)	£4.99	5.517
Rough Guide: the Internet Angu	is Kennedy (Rough Guides)	£5	4,892
Men are From Mars John Gr	ay (Thorsons)	£8.99	3,249
Ground Force Weekend Alan T	itchmarsh (BBC)	€9,99	3,065
Cricletter's Almanack 1999 ed A	Natthew Engel (Wisden)	£28.00	3,040
	ian Too (Element)	£1,99	2,319
The Whole Woman Ger	maine Greer (Doubleday)	£16.99	2,032
How To Get What You Want Joh	in Gray (Vermillon)	€9.99	1,946
The Little Book of Wrong Strut R	tohan Candappa (Ebury)	£1.99	1,460
The Year 1000 R Lacey & D Dan	ziger (Little, Brown)	£12 99	1,290

'Lie back and enjoy it'

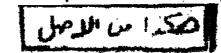
CASANOVA ANDREW MILLER

Exquisite and convincing' DAILY TELECRAPH

'A source of wonder and delight' THE SONDAY TIMES

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WEEKEND REVIEW

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Ghosts

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COUNTRY & GARDEN

Last call for the jeroboam of birds

f you think of a red grouse as being of single-bottle size, and a blackcock or black grouse as a magnum, a capercaillie is a jeroboam or even a rehoboam (the equivalent of six bottles). the biggest grouse on earth. A cock caper weighs eight or nine pounds. and stands more than 2ft tall. Yet now this splendid bird has fallen into decline in Scotland, and experts fear that unless it is given every possible assistance, it will quickly die out in Britain.

This has happened once already. early in the 19th century; but the species was re-established by a series of importations from Sweden, beginning in 1837, and the newcomers' descendants flourished so well in the central and eastern Highlands that they became a menace to forestry. In the course of feeding, they nipped so many buds covered the same area using the and leading shoots from young trees that, to keep numbers down, gamekeepers smashed eggs and trampled chicks to death, and in winter landowners organised large-scale drives that often yielded bags of 100 birds in a day.

Today, the idea of such mass murder seems inconceivable, for although caper survived in quite good numbers until the Sixties, they have gone downhill ever since, and the most recent estimate suggests that there may now be fewer than 1,000 left in the whole of Scotland.

If the species does come through, its survival will be due in no small measure to the efforts of one man Jimmy Oswald, who was head keeper on the Gentanar estate in Perthshire from 1968 to 1994, and in retirement has become a passionate advocate. His enthusiasm for caper has taken him to almost every corner of their range, from Scandinavia to the Pyrenees, from the Dolomites to the Carpathians, from the Alps to the Urals and the Altai.

In his early days at Glentanar, the estate held two caper shoots every winter and killed between 40 and 130 birds, most of which went to taxidermists to be stuffed. If, in any one year, stocks seemed to be low, shooting was suspended. Then in the Seventies, with numbers obviously declining, shooting stopped, and the keepers began systematic research. With the help of Robert Moss, a specialist from the institute of Terrestrial Ecology, they started to monitor a study area, using pointers to find chicks and tagging the ones they could catch. In a typical year they would tag about 40 and see maybe another 100, which

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COUNTRY **MATTERS**



DUFF HART-DAVIS

eluded them by flying up into trees. The picture now is utterly different. "We thought the birds were doing poorly when they were at that level, in the Seventies," Jimmy says. "But two years ago, when we

NATURE **NOTES**

GREY SQUIRRELS - a pest in any season - are now in their most destructive period. In the next few weeks they will eat the eggs of songbirds; in May they will set about their annual orgy of barking hardwood trees, which they will go on chewing until July.



gnawing at the foot of the trunk and on the top of the roots, where they join the main stem, but they also go for older trees near the crown. Beech and sycamore are favourites; extensive bark-stripping will kill the tree altogether; even minor assaults will disfigure it for life. Some people believe that the animals chew bark for food, attacking trees when the sap is at its sweetest. Others consider the grawing a form of territorial marking.

Either way, it is highly damaging, and costs foresters a small fortune every year. **DUFF HART-DAVIS**

same techniques, we saw one chick, which we caught and marked. Last year, after two weeks of bloody hard work, we never saw a chick at all. There are virtually none left."

Various factors are blames for the decline, among them over-grazing by sheep and deer. This degrades the habitat, and in particular suppresses blaeberry plants, which caper need for food and shelter Another damaging influence has been a series of late, cold springs: chicks have hatched before there is an abundance of the insects on which they depend for protein in the first few weeks of life.

Yet, in Jimmy's view, there is one villain whose destructive capacity far outweighs every other: the deer fence. For years keepers have been finding the remains of birds that have flown into the two-metre wire barriers built to protect forestry plantations, and now radio tracking has confirmed that the fences are major killers not only of capercaillie but also of black grouse. One researcher had five radio-carrying caper killed on fences in a single

The risks are particularly high in spring, for the birds are now homing in on their traditional leks, or mating-grounds. Once a dominant cock has established himself on an open patch at the edge of a forest, hens fly in from all quarters to court him, drawn by low-frequency calls that the human ear cannot detect, but which they can apparently pick up from a kilometre or so away. Gliding low along the glens in the halflight of dawn, with their minds on other things, they simply do not see the lethal obstructions in their path.

One estate on which caper are surviving reasonably well is Abernethy on Speyside, now owned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. In the Eighties the RSPB took the courageous step of reducing the local red deer herd from 900 to 300, thus enabling the blaeberry and heather to grow luxuriantly, and over the past few years the society has removed 25 miles of deer fence. Further, between 1992 and 1997 the RSPB culled predators such as foxes and booded crows.

These measures have undoubtedly helped caper to hang on at Abernethy. Other landowners are also taking down fences, but many, encouraged by government grants, are putting up miles of new ones in their efforts to keep deer out of selected areas so that they can re-

of antiquity. Which are more important - trees or rare grouse? Conservation priorities are by no means easy to resolve. What frustrates independent

enthusiasts is the fact that so little positive action emanates from official sources. The name of the body in charge is daunting enough: the Capercaillie Species Action Plan Steering Group operates under the auspices of the Scottish Biodiversity Group, and those involved include the next few weeks, and measures emblem of Scotland.

Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, the Forestry Commission, the Deer Commission for Scotland, the RSPB, the Game Conservancy Trust, the Scottish Landowners' Federation and the Highland Wildlife Park at

ing is decide when to hold the next". He believes that immediate action is needed: stretches of fence known to be killers should be removed in

people do at one committee meet-

public disturbing the caper by wandering on to leks.

His own plan is clear: he has collected hundreds of signatures for a petition which he intends to deposit with the Scottish parliament as Kincraig. In Jimmy's view, "all these soon as it has been elected on 6 May. As he says, it would be a terrible shame if one of the first events of the new millennium, under a new regime, were the demise of a bird which in many ways has become the

> There's plenty of room for buckets and spades on Brittany's many beaches.

of historic buildings and monuments

Or, if you prefer sightseeing the region is full

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 23

CUTTINGS

NEWS FROM THE GARDENERS' WORLD

CLASSES AT Catriona Boyle's Gorden School start again on 20 April when Boh Brown. owner of the Cotswold Garden Flowers nursery, talks about plants that thrive in shade. Town gardeners always complain about shade. Bob Brown shows how to turn it into a benefit rather than a bugbear. You can buy and grow plants until you're broke, but they won't necessarily add up to an attractive or rewarding garden. In the afternoon of the same day, Helen Dillon, who has an outstanding garden on the outskirts of Dublin, shows how to transform a random collection of growing things into a pleasing garden scene. Workshops start at 10 and finish at 4. Price £45 a day. Contact Catriona Boyle at Penpergwm Lodge, Abergavenny. Gwent NP7 9AS Tel: 01873 840208.

ONE OF Oxfordshire's best kept secrets is the Harcourt Arboretum, a satellite of Oxford University's own Botanic Garden, The collection was established by the Harcourt family in the mid 1830s, but for the past 30 years or so, has been under the wing of the Botanic Garden. In spring it lights up with masses of azaleas, planted in drifts under the trees, and there is a 10-acre bluebell wood as well. The arboretum is 400 yards south of Nuneham Courtenay on the A4704 Oxford-Henley road. During April it is open Mon-Fri (10am-4.30pm). From May through to the end of October it is open every day (10am-5pm).

MONEY RAISED by the **National Gardens Scheme** goes to many good causes, including the National Trust, where NGS money provides bursaries for five trainee gardeners each year. The Careership scheme, as it is called, addresses the problem of producing gardeners with the right skills to care for historic gardens. Students work in Trust gardens under the eye of its head gardener and also study at Bicton College in Devon. Current apprentices include 16-year-old Colin Wood, who joined the scheme from school last vear, and Jacqueline Currie (36), who left the Inland Revenue at Aylesbury to train as a gardener at Wimpole Hall in Cambridge. For more details about the scheme or an application form to join the new intake this September, contact John McKennall on 01208 265245. ANNA PAVORD



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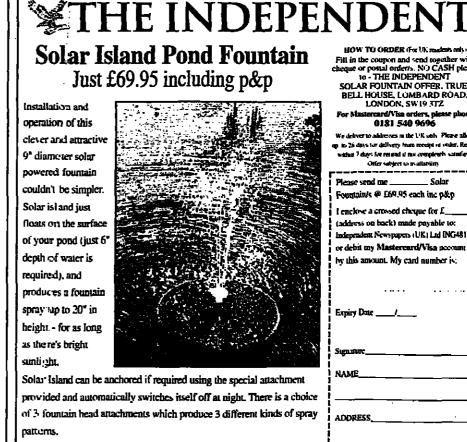
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Getting to the church in time

Last year, Anna Pavord had a plan for wedding flowers. But this spring, Nature has had a different one...

the garden next week the wedding will be in the church up the lane, but the party afterwards will be held in a tent at c home. Consequently, wedding flowers have been much on my mind.

Commercial growers, with their computer-controlled warm rooms, cold rooms, light rooms and dark rooms, can bring pretty well anything into bloom at any time of the ¿ year. Amateurs have a chancier

Late last October I had a plan, but Nature, as is her right, had a different one and laid on an incredibly mild winter and six months of almost incessant rain. Even now, only a week before the wedding, I am not sure what I will have to hand on the day itself.

¡ Last October I was thinking bulbs: late, sweet-smelling narcissus, anemones, and tulips, tulips, tulips. The anemones captured the colours we wanted to work with - rich blue, red, purple, magenta, pink. So I bought 50 corms each of scarlet Hollandia', violet-blue 'Mister Fokker', violet rose 'Sylphide', the fine blue double 'Lord Lieutenant' (my favourite) and another double with violet flowers called "The Admiral".

Planted in our garden, anemones have always been extraordinarily free-flowering. I thought I'd plant them in 5-in clay pots and use them as table centres.

It is not going to work. The 25 pots were packed together in the cold frame all winter, but when flower buds started to appear in March I shifted them all to a cooler spot under a north-facing wall. Because they had been growing close together in the cold frame, the foliage in each pot supported its neighbour. Separated, the stems flopped. That was lesson number one.

Each pot should have had more space. And even when planted 10 corms to a pot, well-fed since the first growth appeared, there are not enough flowers full out, all at the same time, to make any one of the 25 oots showy enough to work as a table centre. I've just been out, counting the buds still to come. On average, there will be just six or seven flowers to a pot. Measly. That was lesson number two.

What is the solution? The probthan the flowers. Come what may, I at our last party. A mesmerising will have to use the old clay pots that cavalcade of insects climbed down the anemones are currently filling.
I can't lay my hands on any more,
across the white damask cloths of I can't lay my hands on any more, and no other container will be quite the various tables: beetles, woodlice, as appropriate. So the day before the wedding, I'll pick all the anemones that we can use and plant the rest in the garden.

The dishwasher will deliver the pots in a fit state to pack with blocks of Oasis wrapped in plastic, and I'm hoping that there will be 2,500 of them last November and



Arrangement for a wedding: Detta Phillips fills a Medici urn with spring foliage, apricot roses and Casablanca lilies

enough tulips around to fill them. Be- hoped I had covered all eventualities cause their stems are so fleshy, you by choosing varieties that flowered have to poke holes in the Oasis with from mid-April through to mid-May. a pencil before you put the flowers

Our garden is thick with moss, which likes the damp and the shade. Nevertheless, I'll be buying it from teresting centre of pale bluishgreen) and 200 'Purple Star' which is slightly more magenta than the other two, the flowers beautifully set centipedes, ants. We ended up rac-

ing woodlice between forks set up as finishing-posts, but they hadn't drunk as much as we had and kept veering off into the butter dishes. So it's bought moss this time, but - I hope - our own tulips. I planted

in. Dressed with moss, the under-

pinnings should then be hidden

But they are exceptionally early this year. The main display was to come from 200 Purple Prince, a sturdy single early of rich purple, 200 'Sjakamaro', an equally good midseason tulip, of roughly the same

off against greyish foliage. The first of these is supposed to flower by mid-April, the second by late Aprilland the third in early May. So, theoretically (as I thought when I was planting the bulbs last year) I should have been able to count on masses of purple tulips whether the

season was early or late. Instead, by the end of March all were in full colour, though not fully open. I hauled all the pots into the shade and on Good Friday, when the weathermen were predicting a hot Easter, tied up 600 blooms with thick, soft wool.

Will it work? That remains to be seen. It's a trick that was used by florists in the 18th and 19th centuries colour (though with a much more in- which I'd read about, but never weather didn't come but at least the little corsets stopped the rain beating into the centres of the flowers

and splaying them open. The moment of truth will come on Monday when I whip off the wool bindings. Will the tulips then gracefully pretend that the unexpected hiccup never happened? Or will they suddenly shimp, as I do when I'm kept up too late at night and required to keep going long past my natural span?

Not all the tulips are for picking. Some of the biggest pots were planted to decorate the tent: pale cream 'Magier' with a purple rim round its petals, fabulous 'Couleur Cardinal' scarlet with overlays of plum, and stubby little double earlies such as 'Electra' and 'Schoonoord' which I planted in wicker baskets.

'Electra' is a harsh pink - not a tulip I would use in the garden - but it is showy and can be calmed down by masses of white 'Schoonoord' and the presence of stately 'High Noon'. This is a one of the few things that is performing to order, a mid-April tulip that is just coming into bloom, with soft pink and cream flowers; the cream in a broad flame up the backs of the petals.

We have made trellis panels to hang round the walls of the tent. Fortunately those haven't presented a problem. Yet. We washed them over

with Cuprinol wood stain, a bluish-

green colour called Sage, watered down to give a beaten-up, nonaggressive finish. Oh, how danger ous this all is. I'm beginning to talk like someone out of Private Eye's Pseuds' Corner But I must plough on: the trellis will be decorated with ivy and bunches of grapes.

Then there's the church. Well, you have to work hard to spoil a small Norman church with Saxon underpinnings and a 16th-century wallpainting above the chancel arch. A gang of friends who understand flower-arranging have volunteered to fill it with wildness and scent. All I've got to find are boughs of apple blossom for the chancel arch.

"Back! Back!" I keep shouting to the big old Bramley apple on the top lawn. But, like everything else in this garden, it's not listening.

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WEEKEND WORK



A MAN with a broken nose of heroic grandeur turned up at the door last week with a trailer load of mushroom compost that he wanted to get rid of, so I know what mu weekend work is. Mulching. All the trees and shrubs get a thick collar of dung. The mushroom compost, more finely constituted, goes round the plants in between. You cannot expect mulches of this kind to sort out weeds like buttercup, but it stops the self-seeding of annuals such as groundsel and bitter-cress. It also feeds the soil, adds bulk to overlight ground and opens up clammy clay. Soft-surface paths can be top-dressed with crushed bank if necessary. Whether to treat paths with weedkiller first is a vexed question. Self-seeded violets and primroses look charming, dandelions not so good. Bindweed is already showing its head. Clobber it with a herbicide such as Roundun.

PRICK OUT seedlings into trays of compost as soon as their first pair of true leaves are showing. Set them in the compost so that the lower leaves sit on the surface. Keep them well watered. There is still time to sow seed of fast-growing annual climbers such as Cobaea. Wrap the pots in cling film until the seeds germinate. Sow seed of vegetables such as the courgette 'Gold Rush' (Marshalls £1.23). Plant them out after all danger of frost has passed. Sow seed singly in three-inch pots and cover with cling film until the seedlings emerge.

NIP HEADS from daffodils as they die to stop them diverting their energy into seed-production. Don't cut down or bundle up the leaves. The bulbs need the resources fed down from above.

WILD WINDS have torn climbers from their moorings. Lash them back as soon as it is feasible. Ceanothus, which has brittle wood, is particularly prone to disaster. Solanum, still evergreen after a mild winter, has also suffered. Any climber that is in leaf or flower presents greater resistance in the face of gales and so suffers more.

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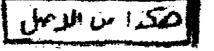


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Sculpted animals lope across her desk. Sometimes they fall off, but at least they make the computer bearable. By Ruth Padel

Wood, paint and random patterns

except my desk, which radiates reproach. Bills, unanswered letters, things that force decisions such as forms asking me if I want cable television. I go there only for deadlines, and re-drafts that need the printer. Otherwise I work in bed or, ideally, for complicated, effortful prose, in a café. When I lived in Crete, I drafted my first prose book in a Heraklion coffee shop with a red leather dachshund in the window.

The only thing that makes the desk bearable are painted wooden animals: big ones, as robust as possible, for I grew up among dangerously fragile ceramics. At my grandparents', we ate alongside a large Tang horse, scratching his bottom with protuberant teeth. My cousin was once found under the table with an 18-inch Tang dancer whose day hand was moulded to her all-too-fracturable hip. The baby had her wrist through the arm/hip triangle and was trying to shake it off. Those Chinese things must have given me a taste for animal shapes around the place, but I don't want to worry about breakage.

The best is a dancing zebra, £13 from Cucina, a gift shop in England's Lane, London When an aggressive mound of unanswered letters pushed him off the desk, I superglued his hock back and he's fine. He's stood by me through three books of poems and the painful mutations of a book I thought was on women's desire but is really on male rock music. Now that one's nearly (touch wood) finished, I realise that I've depended on the cheerful cockeyed swirl of his chest, and his goatish grin.

I like these animals, I think, because most things round us don't need to be the shape they are. Radios in the shape of bumper cars, phones disguised as Elvis or Garfield - a lot of design makes changes only for the eye, to something whose function is inside itself: lika a calculator. But animals -chestahs, okapis, caribou or capybaras - have to be their shape. An animal's shape says what it does: its beauty is determined by its function. As with tools. When a French farmer made a handle for Robert Frost's axe: He showed me that the lines of a good helve! Were native to the grain before the knife./ Expressed them, and its curves were no false curve/ Put on it from without.

Which Seamus Heaney says is



Ruth's ark: animal sculptures are so satisfying because the subject's beauty is determined by their shape

What makes a poem or axe-haft beautiful is a line that's native to the material. In other words, organic.

That word "organic" casts a spell today because we are stuffed to the gills with designed materials. Sainsbury's "organic" food sales went up 50 per cent in Camden last year. We scamper like lemmings to "organic" shampoo, yoghurt, compost, pain-killers or beef. (Beef may be lethal, but how's it ever inorganic? "Organic" just means "maybe better for you".) If they made organic Apple Macs or Ford Fiestas, there'd

Yet "organic" is the enemy of "designed", and we yearn for that too. We're in an organic-versusdesign double bind. "Engineered" is good when you're checking out the turbo elegance of a new Mercedes. bad when you put "genetic" before it. We adore artificiality, and shun it. That's why I like the paradox of a natural design: design created only by need. And the best example of that is a bird. Hence (I think) the about poetry as well as axe-handles. current craze for painted ducks.

The best duck I know lives down the road from me and has seen Andrew O'Hagan through his first novel. She came from the Pyrenees roan wings, blue neck, big white blob of an eye, kohl-black, selfpossessed pupils: one day I'll find a duck like that. I've got an elegant Zimbabwean heron for £26 from Zamani (which now sells tribal art in Highgate Village, beside the dentist who's looked after me since I was

12), plus a £38 red goose from Kris-

tan Baybars in Gospel Oak.

Kristin Baybars looks like a toyshop, but the window says it isn't. "Any resemblance to a toyshop is in your imagination." Her anarchic dolls-house display (men shaving in the kitchen, women picking nits out of kids' hair) is obsessive, extraordinary and addictive. Dolls-house

murmur over minuscule dovecotes in the tumultuous back room. We chose walipaper for my daughter's dolls' house there: green brocade for the Music Room, Turkish red for the stairs. Now she's too grand for toys I go, unaccompanied, for painted

animals. I spent the advance for this year's book of poems on an ark painted by Jill Hancock, a folk-paint genius with an eye for triangles. She used to make sumptuous boxes for Harrods but has now reverted to toys: though Baybars says she

might make a box, on commission. I've never learnt to paint, but I'm mesmerised by its techniques. Painting is like writing without worrying. My only medium, though, is matt emulsion. igh, is manned in the longest I've lived anywhere was six years. I once made Since 17, the longest I've

freaks from Holland to Honolulu five kitchens in nine years: gas pipes, walls down, floors up, the lot.

> hell for living and working, but I love the way all that work changes how you see. I couldn't manage stencils; they'd smudge and I get anxious if I try to follow rules. And they are too, well, designed, for me. I only copy, freehand. I spent a whole sum-

mer painting the back door with two Balkan dancers from off a Greek Christ-

and woo.
Brazilian
armadille painted zebra and wooden

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Some people read cookery books for comfort; I obsess over how-topaint books. Anne Young's Paint Roses and Castles: Traditional Narrow Boat Painting (from Hegners, a pilgrimage-worthy artists' shop at South End Road, London) is too technical for me to use but I get a buzz from reading it.

"Painting Blue Flower: Step 1: Start flower with yellow disc. Step 2: Encircle with mid-blue discs. Step 3: Small white dots round yellow circie. Step 4: Add pale blue strokes round edge of each petal. Step 5: Add a small off-centre pink crescent. Start at the top, put slight pressure on brush, making the bristles spread a little. Gently lift pressure and turn point of brush very slightly so the paint trails away at the base."

There. All you need. Do it (if you can) on watering-cans, pianos, shoe-horns, dog-kennels, dogs, computers, toothbrushes... anything you fancy.

Wood is my other obsession. Loping after the zebra on the desk is a chunky naked wood armadillo from Brazil. Our oak kitchen table came from my grandparents' back porch. I polyurethaned it to a dark, tigery brown like slubbed silk. Its only blemish is an acid-burn from when my daughter's table-vandalising spaniel decided a pack of Duracel AA batteries was a treat unjustly withheld from her. She left the field only when acid began dripping from her fangs. Dog fine; table scarred; batteries unusable

Paint on wood, though, is the best of both worlds. Whoever painted my zebra curved the stripes perfectly into his friskily dependable wooden body. I once knew a mathematician researching zebra embryos. God knows where he found them in Oxford, but zebras are, apparently, the example of infinite mathematical randomness. You never know what stripes will get up to next. (See the jungle-fur frames round the new-look Miss Selfridge mirrors.) On my quilt-drenched desk, beside the computer I also dearly love but only for what it can do, I find that zebra dream of wood, paint, and endlessly random pattern to be endlessly comforting.

Cucina, 8 England's Lane, Belsize Park, London NW3 (0171-722 7093); Zamani, 314 Highgate High Street, London N6 (0181-348 4994); Kristin Baybars, 7 Mansfield Road, London NW3 (0171-267 0934); Hegners, 13 South End Road, London NW3 (0171-435 0786)

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WOODEN ANIMALS can be found in the strangest of places, and the beauty of many of them is that they are often hand-made and usually unique. Check out charity shops, craft fairs and small, independent, African shops for unusual examples. The life-like fish pictured is made by Howard Raybould, who takes commissions and can be contacted on 0171-221 6984.

THE CRAFTS Council Shop at the Victoria and Albert Museum can be a treasuretrove of intriguingly tactile little diversions, such as softly sculpted wooden forms by designers like Susan Wraight and Guy Taplin. Call the Crafts Council for details on 0171-589 5070

MORE WIDELY available are Besmo Giraffes (single and "love pairs") and their animal friends from Once A Tree, which has shops in Cheltenham, Bath, Perth, Oxford, Glasgow and Stratford Upon Avon. (Call 01242 224642, for details.) The giraffes range from £7.50 for an 8in-tall model to £96.95 for the 48in version. Other animals include an elephant who supports a stool on his trunk (£91.95), some beautiful horses and dolphins (£25-375), and an adorable fish (£36.95).

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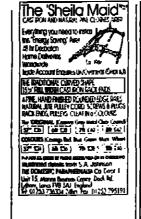
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With summer approaching and thoughts turning to Wimbledon, it's time to say 'new balls, please' and update your tennis gear. By Shaun Phillips

Stop that terrible racket

nis has genuinely got the blood racing. Remember the days of "You cannot be serious. The ball was in"? The Davis Cup and Britain's Greg Rusedski have recently been doing their damnedest to reinstate the sport in to the collective consciousness. Rusedski may have done it for the ladies but he is always a little too George Lazenby to truly galvanise the interest of both sexes.

Whether he ever graduates to being the Sean Connery of tennis remains to be seen, but in the interim, at least, Rusedski's backhandedly upped the ante for the sport this coming summer. But how to emulate the feats of our begrudgingly-adopted national hero? Well, the starting point must be to throw out that sad wooden Dunlop model for beginner/intermediate Max-ply that your mum bought you when you were 14, and get to grips with some of the sport's latest technological developments.

COURT VROOM DRAMA Name: Wilson Hyper Sledge Hammer 2.0 ?rice: £229 Stockists: 01294 316 200

Description: Many of the leading brands are made in the same

country (Taiwan) by the same company (Pro Kennex) using similar materials (titanium/graphite composites), so recommending a brand of tennis racket can seem an arbitrary business. What is important is choosing a racket that reflects your standard of play. (Although there is no universally agreed scale, all manufacturers

level of competence.)

The Wilson Hyper Sledge Hammer 2.0 looks similar to many other carbon/titanium composite rackets but it utilises the latest technology, Hyper Carbon, which surprise, surprise - was previously used by Nasa in satellite space stations (wouldn't it be ironic if it turned out to be the hinge of the

The racket is so light (221g unstrung) that when I first picked it up I hit myself in the face with it. Yet despite being featherweight, the Hyper Sledge Hammer 2.0 is four times stiffer than its peers, making it more powerful and less prone to vibrations. It also has the biggest sweet spot among leading commercial rackets.

Suitable for: The 2.0 is a good players (more experienced players should go for the Hyper Pro Staff 5.0 (£170, available from 1 June).

Style: *** Anything else worth recommending? If you're an Agassi wannabe, then opt for Head. He uses the TiRadical (£149, 01635 555 800), which will be available here in May. but if you couldn't hit a barn door with an oversize racket, then go for

NEW BALLS PLEASE Name: Wilson

the TLS5 (£200).

Titanium Tennis Balls Price: £7 for four Stockists: 01294 316 Description: Since the

average life span of a

tennis ball in a pro match is nine games, the idea of toughening them up to maintheir allica tain pressure for longer with a ti-

t's been a while since ten- grade their rackets according to tanium-lined core is persuasive. Although early types of titanium balls were weighty like conventional longlife balls, the new Wilson balls manage to combine durability and lightness. They're still the same boring green colour, though. Suitable for: Hard hitters and skinflints.

> Style: *** Anything else worth recommending? How about one of those cages that tennis coaches nonchalantly flick tennis balls into, using their heel, as they stroll around the court? The Ballport-Mini holds 36 balls (£40, 01268 548 987) and the Ballport-80 holds 80 (£45).

GOOD VISIBILITY



Name: Bollé Competivision

Stocklsts: 0181-770 1766

Description: It sounds like the name of a Cruise missile, but Vigilante are funky, steel-framed wraparounds with lenses designed to optimise the colour yellow, thus enhancing ball vision. And they come with a spare set of smoked lenses for when you're lounging around the club bar afterwards. Impressed? What do you mean, professional players don't wear sunglasses? Bolle supplies photographic evidence that Martina Hingis wears them, and if top-ranked tennis player, then

Suitable for: People who are not happy until they have spent all their savings. Style: ***

they're good enough for us.

Anything else worth recommending? Slazenger's High Visi-

bility tennis balls (26.50 for three

0171-267 8000), the spheres of choice at Wimbledon since everyone moaned about the poor light there ruining their games. THE BAG MEN

Price: £45 Stockists: 01628 472 466 Description: Companies like to call these carriers thermo bags, they're good enough for the world's the idea being that they keep your racket at a

Name: Babolat Tennis Bag

constant ture, thus keeping the strings nice and taught. I'm

sure this was

wallet, mobile phone and car keys tremember: turn off the phone before you start playing). Suitable for: People who perspire. in Babolat's mind, as it is the world's top string manufacturer. Style: ★★

You, though, may be more interest-Anything else worth recommending? Wilson's Premier Super ed by the fact that this bag has a Six Pack (£30, 01294 316 200), if you've got more rackets than sense. compartment It sounds like an inflatable chest but for sweaty actually it's a bright red bag that can and wet hold six rackets.

and

front for your

FIRING SQUAD Name: Tennis Tutor 3 Price: £1.500

Stockists: 01202 396 610 Description: Sadly, the Tennis

like a guitar amp than a Gattling gun but don't be fooled into thinking it's a soft option. This machine holds more than 100 tennis balls which it fires at up to 90mph every 2-10 seconds for up to three hours before the heavy-duty battery requires recharging. The speed and trajectory of the ball are adjustable and it also has a time delay, so you

Tutor 3 looks more

don't have to sprint to the other end of the court. Sultable for: Nobby no mates

Style: ★★ Anything else worth consid ing? If this seems steep, then the Tennis Tutor Jr is only £900 (and operates at up to speeds of 60mph).

Shaun Phillips is deputy editor of 'ZM' magazine

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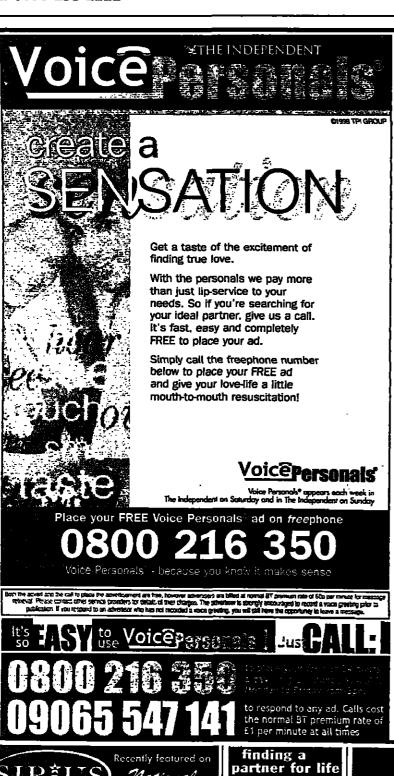
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Graduste, professional, male, 51, thes classical music, historic houses, books, history, the arrs, seeks similar male, 40-50, for intendship, possible 1-2-1. South Yorks/North Midlands area. 226175

POSSIBLE FUTURE
Fernale, 33, 5'6", silm build, attractive, Swindon based, emptys going out, liteatre, onema, earing out.

alternative LIFESTYLE

men









seeking Fun-loving, slightly mad, intelli-down-to-earth lemale, 35, 5'9", IN SEARCH OF DOBDEN blonds/gean, englys shopping, swimming, squash, seeks mabe, 35-40, 59° and above, with similar references, for thendship at first. 256059 CHRISTIAN LADY IN SEARCH OF DOUBDM Petits, viscalous, attractive single mother, early 40s, but gift at hear, well-educated/resuffavelled, with an insatiable energy and optimism, seeking an honourable gentleman, 40-55, to share the usual cultural CHRISTIAN LADY
Srigle, 33, N.S., medium build, honest. Lind-hearted. Joves animals, which is country-indercoast, seeks Christian gent, 30-45, friendship, leading to romance, 176055
HAPPY OPTIMIST
Creative, independent, fair-heired, blue-eyed, tairly fill lemate, 33, into fun, fineds, writing, adventurous travel, the arts, seeks like-minded male, 30-40. London based, 175997
ATTRACTIVE & SLEM
Brown-eyed female, 40, many arts-based interests, seeks handsome male, 35-45, with GSOH, for friend-ship-relationiship London area. 175988
ATTRACTIVE & CLASSY
Very attractive, sim female, 49, 5°5°, dark hair, Intelligent, interesting, enjoys good lood-wine and male company, is seeking a successful, professional male, aged 47-56, who is strong but genile 186282
LUST FOR LIFE
Attractive, antiset, contiguing, fun-loving, professional lady, slim, blonde, interested in the arts, good food and wine, daning, horidays, seeking autractive, sessitive, land, intelligent, well-educated, professional man, 45-55, to share interessa London. 176283
SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL activities and james in the country London 12:6272 FUN-LOVING EX-MODEL Single, 33, N/S, medium build, hon-Security, fively, fun, intelligent, lov-ing ternale, with many interests, seeks similar man, late 30s-early 40s, for companionship, laughs, and loving, long-terni relationship. 276288 BROWN-EVED GIRL. Sensational black single man, stu-BROWN-EYED GIRL
Sensational, black single mam, student, 577, enjoys tashon shows, dancing, chemas, shopping, nights in, travelling back to the Carbbean, seeks honest, good-looking, caring, loving guy, 20-33, blackwinte, for long usting relationship, 256165

BEWITCHING WOMAN
With style and a wicked smile, seeks warm, with, wise, renascence man, 40-50, experienced in rescuing workarbides and admixing women who skay their own dragons.

Middlesez based '875992'
EUROPEAN CONNECTION
Affractive, sim, independent, professional brunette, petite, into the arts, opera, classical music, travel, social scence, seoking amactive, successful, genuine, sensible, professional brunette, petite, into the arts, opera, classical music, travel, social scence, seoking amactive, successful, genuine, sensible, professional male, 45-50, for happy retaionship 176278
TIRED OF
THE SAME OLD SCENE
Engaging, warm, wham, finensly fermale, late 30s, quality and deep into personality, interested in cinema, seeks male, 35-40, for frend-shapt relationship, interested in cinema, seeks male, 35-40, for frend-shapt relationship. London area 19180.

QUIRICY HUMOUR? 256289 SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL Caring, genuine, loving lady, 59, 4111, GSOH, N/S, medium build, 411 , GSCH, NS, medium build, enjoys line dancing, swimming, walking, meeting people, seeks genure gentleman, 60-65, for theid-skip, companionship, possible relationship 26058

BELLE IN BELFAST 25180 QUIRKY HUMOUR?

SELLE IN BELL'AST intelligent, sim, attractive women. 28, mo cinema, arts, travel, keep-si, seeks tail, honest, stracer male, for intendening 125989.

CELTIC DREAMING Pair-skinned, blue-eyed redhead, 36, medium height, curvaceous, limo arts, musc, tierature, yoga, laughler, seeks like-minded man, 32-40 Herts, 175991. Vegetarian? Questioning? Keen photographer? Would you like to meet similar, in tall, simmish, pany tertale? In East Susser area preferably, 156155
VEGETARIAN VACANCY
Best friend wanted for happy outgoing, professional lady, 50s, into spinual grow, theatite, films, gardering, good company, would suit meetingent, sensitive, vegetarian male.

Concrumbles for common Suffers. Heris. 125991 GREGARIOUS FEMALE... ...31.55", blande/green. SW London, professional, enjoys cook-ing, staying in, tennis, holidays,

25:301

ADVENTUROUS FEMALE
Inteligent good-looking ternale,
brown harrleyes, 24, 54", likes
hose rating, travelling, music, pube,
cnema, seeks male, similar age,
54" and above, 24-30, for mendship
and contance, th6058

DOES SIZE REALLY MATTER?
Attractive, otherworshy oppositioned ing out with, \$5552

HOLDING OUT FOR LOVE

Sim, golden-skimed woman, just back from, Africa, into Ife's adventures, still clinging pentiously to notion, no need to settle for less then love, needs tall, happy, confident, withy independent, liberal bunker to prove her right. \$76167 Attractive, generously proportioned woman, 40s, with a generous heart to match, seeks sensitive, affectionate male, for compartionship, possible relationship, Heritorishire.

women DESPERATE Emotionally dis Emotionally distorted by previous retationships. Male, 50s, believes in excertee, into reading, sport, cycling, is seeking a Roran, aquarian or

gemini female, any age, for Irlend-ship first, then who knows? 276285 MATE FOR LIFE
Asian male, 43, seeks amert, kind,
educated, understanding, goodlooking female, any religion/ caste,
for reliable, frustworthy relationship.

TIS IN THE STARS Two caring, charismetic, cancerlan males, 34/33, 5'10'76', blue and green eyes, brown hair and reason-aby handsome, enjoy pubs, cine-ma, the are, good lood, are seeking two intelligent, attractive, sophisti-cated ladies under 30 276271 BATH MALE

EATH MALE

Duist male, 41, N/S, own flat, slightly disabled, into cinema, aviation, meals out, computing, seeking lady, up to 45, for friendship, evenings out and maybe more, \$26270

FRANCOPHILE

Divorced, squaran male teacher, young 55, more rich finan wealthy, enpoys good conversation, swim-

young 55, hore nich finan wealthy, engos good conversation, swimming, chess, gendening, wine, travel, seeks blonde, slim lady, 30+. NE or enywhere 176257
HAPPY GUY SEEKS...
Professional male, 36, tall, dark, caring, with many interests, seeks woman, 25+0, for threndship.
Ovon/Bucks: N Harks, 176000
VERY URGENT
Pland mew. I'm alone in London

Fling me now, I'm alone in London and seek plam Jane. 30s, but well-sculptured, to love and care tor. 25164
INDEPENDENT ROMANTIC
Professional male, 35, enjoys travel, good conversation, sports, arts, seeks like infinided, altractive, professional lemale. Bristol based **26**164___ THIS IS NO YOLK_

London male, 33, seeks female, to share left over Easter egg. Fans of Ceine Dion, rap music or anyone with an KO lower than room temperature need not apply 256168 STILL SEERING...
...that elusive, music-loving, interest ing, kindred spirit. Graduate gende-man, 57. seeks body, under 58, to share life's many pleasures, in a long-term relationship. Bristol.

BLACK & GENTLE BLACK & GENTLE Black hereiture graduate, N/S, GSOH, loves the arts, travel and good lood, seeks positive, protes-sional woman, 28-38, race and colour unamportant, with or without hillifron for procedules. SOUL MATE SEARCH
Tell, attractive, hard-working male,
25, into antiques and property renovation, seeking intelligent ternale
company, for friendship and relationstip, 1962/75
DIVORCED MALE, 50
Affectionate, professional male

Affectionate, professional male, seeks female, any age, to share life seeks female, any age, to share life with, 196281
UNIVERSITY GRADUATE
Cosmopolitan male, 41, 67, slim, fit, likes intellectual challenges and taughtor. Is seeking a very skim, attractive parmer, aged 28–35, who's discerning and ready for adventurous inture. South West, 196279
FROM OUT OF NOWHERE...
Good-looking, professional male, 31, 5107, seeks skimyhtig bulid bubby female, any agerdokur. Vary large women also most welcome. Looks unimportant, GSOH issental. If you leave a message I

Looks unimportant. GSCH essential. If you leave a message I promise to get back to you. \$261.74 LOOK NO FURTHER Attractive, professional, intellectual, self-employed male, 34, no fes, enjoys sports, socialising, seeling similar, dynamic, petite, NS fernale, for intendshipmetationship. Cambridgeshire. \$759.88 SOUL MATE SEARCH Attractive architect, 30s, 59°, dark/green-buse, simminsh, N/S, outgoing, spontaneous, romantic, loves sports, cycling, walks, arts, exhibitions, travel, socialising, seeks creative fernale, on similar wavelength, but possible senious relationship. Twickunham/nearby, \$75833.

TALL AFRICAN-AMERICAN
Male, 31, likes music, sport, travel, Male, 31, likes music, sport, travel, and the procession of the proc

Male. 31, likes music, sport, travel, seeks independent lady, over 25, to share fun times, maybe more. 276283 CEREBRAL MALE... ...45, seeking a bookish soul mate, with passion, who's into travel, live music and good wine. London area. TE6161
CULTURED BLACK MALE Ariculate, considers and caring male, 54, is seeking a lemale partner who has similar attributes.

176162 SUNNY OUTLOOK Teacher, 47, 5'10", Inendly, easygoing nature, finds interest in many espects of life, would like to share irlandship with an attractive, intellipent women, \$76179 TALL WITTY DOCTOR Sinole male 28. seeks suitable, sin ple woman, similar age, sarcas and leisty if possible. London.

T15095
HELL OF BEAMS
Young-looking student counsellor aged 34, 673°, easygoing, curing, thoughtul and humorous, enjoys flams, eating out and relauding with triends, is seeking an tudependent caring female, to enjoy life with.
Newcastle area, 126257
MATURE & CHARISMATIC
South black mate, seeking snotiss

MATURE & CHARISMATIC
Sporty black mate, eeeking sophisti-cated female, to share romantle pur-suits of a goedal kind. \$250,43
LEFTST BUT WITTY
Male library clerk. 33, lasted writer, gentle and willy, undogmatic leftist.
Res pubs, walks, cycling, lood, con-versation, seeks compassion. versation, seeks compassion, thoughtful, non-materialistic female, for relationship. Oxon/London/ North

Artist scademic, polyglot, edectic, unpretentious, leitleh, sensitive, non rich, 48, 59°, presentable, seeks younger, warm, cuffured, elegant lady. South London/Surrey/North

rich, 46, 57, presentable, seeks younger, warm, cultured, elegant lady. South London/Surrey/North East Ireland, 176100
DEAS TURN ME ON Sity, incurably romantic teacher, 42, seeks tectile, sensual lady, for long-term relationship. Any area. 176154
PLEASE REPLY
Tall, dark, handsome, self-employed businessmen, 40, seeks happy, intelligent, beautiful griffnend, 24-32 London, 175984 intelligent, begutiful grifmend, 24-32 London, 155384 STOPI READ THIS CAREFULLY

STOPI READ THIS CAREFULLY Professional guy, 40s, 51; Adribuown, abhetic, well-built, N/S, GSCM, seeks lady, under 49, N/S, GSCM, to thendship initially, hopefully lasting love. London/surround 976098

ATTRACTIVE ENIGMATIC MALE 30s, seeks Intelligent, withy woman, to share laughs, wine, blues, good times and more. North West. 275995

GOOD-LOOKING TEACHER...

HI, I'M JOHN Athletic male, mid-30s, seeking cou-ples who are looking for that title bit extra, for healthy, adventurous, for arms rogether. Carn travel. 256278 COUP ATHE INDEPENDENT

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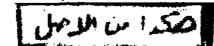
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WEEKEND REVIEW

INDEPENDENT ADVICE FOR THE INDEPENDENT TRAVELLER: FROM THE ONLY NATIONAL NEWSPAPER TRAVEL SECTION THAT REFUSES FREE TRIPS

The Caribbean's pressure valve

It has a brooding volcano, a jazz festival and pushy black marketeers, but St Lucia is still a tranquil haven. By Frank Partridge

shattering potential of Krakatoa, or even the Soufriere Hills of nearby Montserrat, but the dormant volcano on St Lucia also known as Soufrière - might well be described as an earth-saver. Lying roughly in the middle of the 600-mile crescent of atlas-blobs fringing the eastern Caribbean, what's claimed to be the world's only "drive-in" volcano has done little more than bubble and hiss since it last blew its top in 1780.

The drive-in takes you to a somewhat disappointing acre or two of boiling mud, steam and sulphurous gas - from which foul-smelling element all four West Indian Soufrières derive their name – and the minibus hordes are guided through at such a breathless pace that the experience can be fitted in between a late breakfast and an early lunch. To those dismayed by the distinct lack of lava, the guide is unapologetic: "It's only thanks to us that all the other islands on the fault line don't go up," he boasts. "This is the safety valve on the pressure cooker, where all the gases can escape. Martinique, St Vincent and the others should really be paying us a volcano tax." The science may be doubtful, but the humour is very St Lucian and he may just be right.

Every year, up to 200 vulcanoloof the local designation of the local designat gists keep a weather-eye on any 李龙 医 subtle changes in Soufrière's activity that may portend future disasters on the scale of Montserrat, or, at the beginning of the century, Martinique, 127 (227 where all 30,000 inhabitants of the former capital, Saint-Pierre, were suffocated or burnt to death when Mount Pelée erupted.

and the second

And, for all its latter-day tameness, St Lucia's under-performing Sustable for Very time volcano has left behind two of the scenic icons of the West Indies: the Anything else worth one designatic Piton peaks, soaring sheer of the sea almost to the clouds.

Not that St Lucia's 240 square miles of rainforest, banana plantations and contrasting coastlines are short of eye-catching vistas. The majority of visitors base themselves in the north-west strip of low-rise hotels that stop just short of disfiguring the beaches. One stretch of FAX: 0171 293 258



Soufrière may underperform as a volcano, but it gives rise to some of best scenery in the Caribbean

has been sacrificed to a massive American-owned oil-storage depot, while in the north, on the ribbon of empty sand between Rodney Bay and the 18th-century British naval look-out at Pigeon Island, a sprawiing Hyatt Regency is being knocked noisily into shape amid the palms.

And yet, just a few miles away, the potholes in the island's major road are so deep and dangerous that locals have protested by placing banana plants in the middle of the carriageway - just in case the roads coastline near the capital, Castries, minister happens to be passing.

The gulf between rich and poor on St Lucia is as pronounced as anywhere in the developing world, but the fact that the island's beaches are all public means that the two extremes collide on a routine basis. The clients of even the most deluxe hotels are periodically roused from their beach-slumbers by hawkers playing a game of cat-and-mouse with the beach police, trading illegally in anything from soothing skin balm (you need a vendor's

licence) to drugs (banned outright).

coconut bird-feeder or a necklace of semi-precious stones invariably leads on to the whispered "I can offer you the best ganja on the island, man". Alluring to some, of course, but sinister and threatening to others. The traders size you up and offer accordingly. One of them quickwittedly abandoned his attempts to sell me drugs when he spied an elderly, rather sunburnt American lady approaching. "Take the sting out of your skin, ma'am!" he cried, producing an aloe vera plant from

gician's hat. I marvelled at his salesmanship, but worried about the damage the black marketeers are doing, not only to the island's banana-dependent economy, but also to its image.

A few days in the sunshine, though, and the heavy selling cools. The torso starts to brown, anxieties recede, and a kind of beach-wise cool is developed. One teenage jewellery trader, fresh out of school, finally abandoned his sales patter and told us of his dreams: one day he wanted

Bruce Adams why didn't he look for a job at one of the new hotels? "There's no sense

in working up there, man - they'd

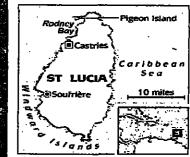
pay me 40ECs a day [Eastern Caribbean dollars: less than £101 and you can make as much selling a necklace to a tourist." It was hard to feel affronted after that.

We had stepped on to the island from the grey of Gatwick, anxious not to waste a few precious days in the sun simply sizzling on the beach. We booked a series of excursions to the rainforest, to the mountains his satchel like a rabbit from a ma- to operate a fleet of motorboats. But by jeep, a sunset cruise by tall ship, unun siluciajazz.com

a historical tour of a colonial plantation. All very worthy and improving, but totally eclipsed by the simple, easy-living, mind-emptying magic of the Caribbean beach. We were almost instantly tranquillised.

The colours really are as vivid as the travel agents' posters suggest. Even the most tremulous swimmer is seduced from the shade of the palm across the sand and into the warm waves. The heat is tempered by the Caribbean's built-in air conditioner, the trade winds that blew Columbus there 500 years ago. And to accompany the sundowner the distant sounds of reggae and calypso are counterpointed by a chorus of tree frogs, a pleasing reminder that you are a long way from home.

On the last day, we had almost to



be dragged off the beach, resolving never to allow another winter to pass without returning to the Caribbean although preferably a little less expensively in future. We had barely scratched the surface of the island, but it hardly seemed to matter. Nothing seemed to matter. And maybe that's the best thing St Lucia has to offer. We had touched that valve, and all the pressure had been released. Just as the wise man at Soufrière had promised.

Frank Partridge paid £976 for 11 nights in St Lucia with Kuoni (01306 742222), including scheduled flights on British Airways from Gatwick and room-only accommodation at the three-star Rex St Lucian.

The 1999 St Lucia Jazz Festival takes place throughout the island between 8 and 16 May. For more details contact the St Lucia Tourist Board at 421a Finchley Road, London NW3 6HJ (0171-431 3675) or visit

TRAVEL – AS the music business has long realised, from Chuck Berry ("Route 66") and Cliff Richard ("Summer Holiday") via Prefab Sprout ("From Langley Park to Memphis") to the Fun Lovin' Criminals

("Korean Bodega") – helps sell pop records. Now some of them are turning vicious. Elvis Costello's ascerbic new single is "Toledo". Is it, you may wonder, about the lovely Spanish town or the unlovely city in Ohio? In fact, t addresses the citizens of the former, about the latter:

Toledo know their name hasn't travelled very well?" Such chiding is mild compared with the Welsh popsters Catatonia's blistering attack on the capital. "A black cab roars through the neon disease",

"Do the people living in



SIMON CALDER

Travel helps sell pop records but now some in the music business are turning vicious

warbles singer Cerys on the track "Londonium": "London never sleeps, it just sucks the life out of me and the money out of my pocket." Most vituperative of all is

Divine Comedy's "National Express". This hommage to the long-distance coach

operator begins cheerfully enough – "Take the National Express when your life's in a mess/ It'll make you smile" - but then launches into a tirade against the prices of the inbus catering, and the looks of the people who serve it:

'On the National Express there's a jolly hostess selling crisps and tea/ She'll provide you with drinks and theatrical winks for a skyhigh fee/ Miniskirts were in style when she danced down the aisle back in '63/ But it's hard to get by when your ass is the size of a small country."

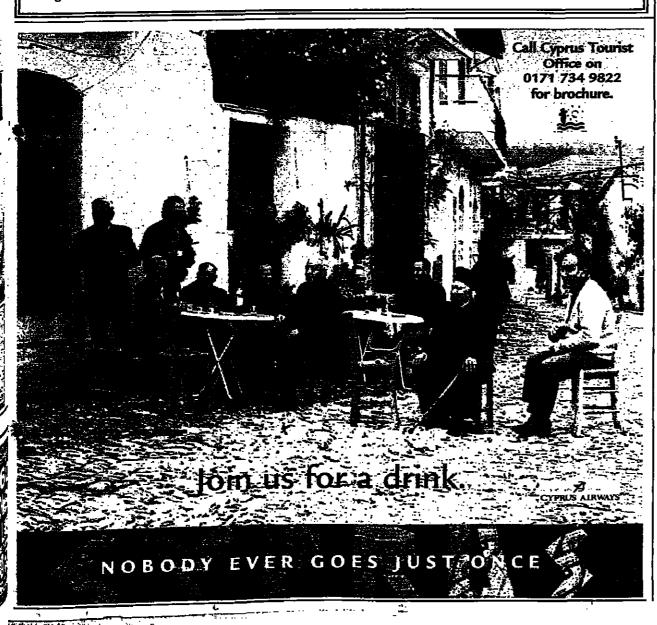
Hugh O'Shaughnessy has a kinder opinion of the bus company on page 25.

OLDER READERS may recall our Christmas competition. There has been

so much going on in the murky old travel business that the winning names have had to be postponed repeatedly - along with their tie-breaks: "Where I would most like to be kissed ...

Paul Voogt of Whitstable

nominates the Algerian town of Amour. He is one of the six winners of Lonely Planet's Brief Encounters: stories of love, sex and travel, along with JM Jennings of Watford ("The International Date Line. where a single kiss could last 24 hours"); Jim Horton. Tamworth ("In bed"); David Lloyd Rees, Swansea ("The Oval Office of the White House"); Bill Thackray, Croydon ("Up the Khyber Pass"); and C Callion. Durham ("Bashful Alley, Lancaster City, for the contradiction in terms").





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Newcastle-Amsterdam (I]muiden, Holland)	4 berth economy (shared (acilities)	£42	£56
Newcaszle- Kristiansand (Nocway)	4 barth economy (shared (acilities)	£17	£105
Newcastle- Gothenburg (Sweden)	4 berth economy (shared facilities)	£®	£115

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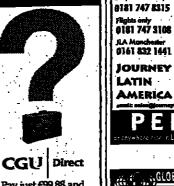
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lberia have been i

indeed, with a crisp, uncaked 1997

chardonnay, an oaked version and a

voluptuous 1997 merlot. Few winer-

as Macari, but most have eager-to-

please staff and welcoming wine

shops where you can taste and buy.

Lloyd Wright-style, at Pellegrini,

which is elegantly laid out on three

sides of a courtyard, with a self-

guided tour showing how the wine

is made. At Lenz winery, Eric Fry

makes winning chardonnay and

merlot. And Paumanok looks set to

build on its reputation for aromatic

Although the South Fork's com-

plement of wineries is limited, it's

well worth taking the tiny north and

south ferries, which ply across the

bay via Shelter Island to the old whal-

ing town of Sag Harbor. Sagpond is

breathtaking – a yellow-wash mod-ern Gothic, 12,000-square-foot chalet

of terracotta tile, stained glass and

thick post and beam, complete with

vaulted Romanesque cellar and 150

Channing's weird tree-root and tree-

trunk sculptures are visible in the

vineyard and reappear on the labels

of the winemaker Larry Perrine's

crisp Italian-style, dry whites; an an-

tidote to the ubiquitous chardonnay.

The only sensible gateway to Long

Island is Kennedy airport. Current

about £165-£200 on Air India, Amer-

ican Airlines, British Airways,

Kuwait Airways, United and Virgin

Atlantic, through discount agents.

these are likely to rise substantial-

ly in July and August. Anthony Rose

hired a Ford Escort for two days for

\$129 (£80) from Budget (0541 565656

in the UK) and paid \$65.40 (£40) to

stay at the Silver Sands Motel (001

Long Island Expressiony (Route

495) east. To visit the North Fork

wineries, go to the last exit, num-

ber 73. The Expressiony links with

County Road 58, which becomes

Route 24. Green Wine Trail' signs

copies of Wine Press - a guide to

Long Island wine country' - are

available from 001 516 298 3200; e-

Two useful websites for Long Is-

land wineries: www.liwines.com

mail: mailia timesreview.com.

and www.northfork.com/nfpc

To get to the North Fork, take the

516 477 0011) in Southold.

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At Channing Daughters, Walter

dry rieslings.

acres of vineyard.

Form follows function, Frank

THE WEEKEND REVIEW

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An island of vine romance

Thirsty travellers beware; there's a lot more e to drink in Long Island than Iced Tea. By Anthony Rose

he 118-mile expanse of Long Island juts out into the Atlantic Ocean like a lobster with its rear end facing New York and a pair of bedraggled claws facing out to sea. The two prongs are called the South and North Forks, and are home to Long Island's burgeoning wine industry ~ New York's version of Napa Valley in miniature.

Only two of the cellars established since 1973, Sagpond and Channing Daughters, are on the cooler, breezier South Fork. The other 18 are dotted along the North Fork from Paumanok in Aquebogue to Ternhaven Cellars close by the little Greenport ferry.

Like Little Enders and Big Enders, North and South Forkers passionately argue the merits of their own respective patches. The South Fork is the beach-house-andgolf-club playground of wealthy New Yorkers, a weekend extension of the Manhattan social scene. In terms of quality of resort, shopping, sophistication and media personalities, South Forkers turn their noses up at the sod-farmers and turnippullers of the north.

But if the South Fork is the place to be seen, the North Fork is the place to come to see. More rural and less self-conscious, the North's farming and fishing heritage and New England charm make it refreshingly green - in all senses. Far enough from New York to discourage commuting, it's not so far as to be inaccessible for tourists and wine-lovers.

Reflecting their English settler origins, the little towns and ports jumble English-sounding place names - New Suffolk, Jamesport, Southold, Bridgehampton - with native American - Cutchogue, Mattituck, Aquebogue. Doll's house clapboard homes are brushed in pale blues, greens and pinks. Toytown white clapboard churches - Hope Church of God, Incarnation utheran, First Presbyterian, First Iniversalist, Baptist and Christian Science – testify to three centuries of righteousness.

The sheltered marine environment of Peconic Bay - with its creeks, islands and beaches - is good for sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. Indian Island Park and the Orient State Park are



Closer to the Bronx than Bordeaux, Long Island's vine

the places to bike and hike.

luxury, try the business-oriented

Ramada Inn at Riverhead - or avoid

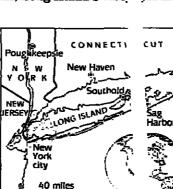
the somewhat pretentious Coeur des

Ross's, The Seafood Barge and

the North Fork.

The North Fork is more familyoriented than the South, with plenty of B&Bs in place of fancy hotels and restaurants. Motels are clean and functional rather than aesthetically thrilling or luxurious, but popular enough, especially those with bay views, so you have to book at weekends and in the summer. If you want

Vignes enjoy good reputations, but for good value and informal eating Tastefully housed a: out, the Jamesport Country Kitchen, Legends and O'Donnell's Pub in Greenport are better options. As if made for the North Fork's crisp style of chardonnay, fresh fish abounds in particular flounders, Peconic Bay scallops and soft-shell crabs, the latter not for the queasy (you eat the



McDonald's in Mattituck is, one lunchtime for the a charms of the Cutchogue which nevertheless had frest flounder and veg - on the me a mere \$7.50 (about a fiver). I ing at the diner, Michele an Roussan, a professional Nev couple, who spend weekend



yards are within easy visiting distance of New Yorkers

summers in New Suffolk, were displaying classic North Fork inverse snobbery. They continued in similar vein: "Frankly we're happy there aren't more hotels. It's a narrow strip and we wouldn't want it to turn into the French Riviera. And we'd rather see a new winery than another gas station or mall."

And they are seeing new wineries. Since Alex Hargrave arrived here in the early Seventies, 20 wineries have been established and more are planned. Realising that Long Island benefited from the long growing season he'd been searching for Hargrave discovered, too, that, compared to the South Fork, the North Fork's bays and sound gave a greater degree of shelter, and lighter and freer-draining soils.

"I followed Virgil," says Hargrave loftily, "and decided to plant four champions," namely cabernet sauvignon, sauvignon blane, chardonnay and pinot noir, the classic grape

varieties of Bordeaux, the Loire and Burgundy. "Once things looked up, they all jumped in," says Hargrave, referring to the second wave of like-minded individuals: Bridgehampton (since closed), Lenz, Be-

handful of others. "Joe Macari started the third wave in the Nineties and now we're starting to hit the big league."

dell, Pellegrini, Paumanok and a

Since then, some big money has moved in, with investors such as Leslie Alexander, owner of the Houston Rockets, sinking considerable amounts of capital into Long Island's fertile soil.

The Italianate, timber-framed Macari building, which stands on a guide you to the wineries. Free wooden deck, opened its doors to the public only last year. The \$12m investment houses the winery plus a tasting room and an elegant sales room. Macari is keen to gain an international audience for his impressive wines. They are very sleek

THE D **SHOPPING FORECAST**



No 11: Shaker crafts Apparently, the Madchester scene started a long time before the late Eighties and the Happy Mondays. In 1774, eight Mancunian Shakers the nickname comes from the trembling and shaking they performed at Quaker meetings) arrived in North America in search of somewhere to practice their virtuous religious beliefs; common property, celibacy, sexual equality and pacificism among other things. By the 1830s, 19 Shaker communities had been established throughout the United States and the functional goods that they designed and produced soon got a name for quality. Sadly thanks at least in part to their commitment to celibacy - Shaker numbers declined and only one active Shaker community still remains - at Sabbathday Lake in Maine.

Fortunately, there are still plenty of Shaker-style goods on sale and the neat New England landscape of the Berkshire Hills - a long-time summer sanctuary for rich Bostonians and New Yorkers - is a good place to start. The Hancock Shaker Village near Pittsville (00 1 413 443 0188 or www. hancockshakervillage.org) is open from 1 April to 30 November and includes a shop as well as the outdoor Shaker history museum and useful library resources.

A Shaker cherry oval carrier (No 8 size) costs \$52.50 (£33). If you bought a similarly-sized carrier at Shaker, 27 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT (0171-724 7672) it would cost £59.95. So, buy up 42 in Hancock, flog them to fashionable the profits to take advantage of the ridiculously low fares on offer in Upper Class on Virgin Atlantic.

Through a discount agent such as Quest Worldwide (0181-546 6000) you can travel from London to Boston for £1,144 return between now and the end of June. Not only will this be complete luxury, it also has the happy effect of raising your baggage allowance you'll be able to bring back



Gadget of the Week Ensure you have the right footwear for any exotic location with a John Lobb shoe trunk. In addition to all the appropriate cleaning gear, the beech trunk holds 13 pairs of shoes and even has little leather fold-out seats should you need to sit down to clean - or to recover from the price (£5.500). The trunk is available on request from John Lobb, 82 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (0171-

RHIANNON BATTEN

Following in Woody Allen's footsteps

I opted

ntique

whole thing, claws 'n' all).

Manhattan - you saw the film 20 years ago, now visit t the locations. But only in black and white. By Donald Hiscock

"THIS WAS still a town that existed in black and white" is how the hero of Woody Allen's Manhattan describes New York at the start of the film. The screen matches sharp monochrome images with a grand rendition of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. Twenty years on, the film's opening sequence still accurately reflects the seductive and beguiling montage of street life in one of the vorld's most visited - and filmed - cities. As the succession of beautifully framed images showed, black and white is the perfect medium to represent the city's arhitecture. To appreciate the locations that Woody Allen used for his prophetically autobiographical film about the relationship between a writer, Isaac Davis (played by Allen) and 17-year-old Tracy (Mariel Hemingway), you need to adjust your set view. Turn down the colour and walk into a widescreen world. Seen through monochrome spectacles, little seems to have changed.

For a tour of most of the film locations, start halfway up the eastern side of Central Park, beside the improbable-sounding Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir. Take in the panoramic skylines that rise above the park's tree-line, and cross Fifth Avenue to the Guggenheim Museum.

The Guggenheim captures a unique corner on the city's Museum Mile. Its white bands of concrete give Frank Lloyd Wright's creation a startling, wrapped-bandage look, but the museum has undergone a face-lift and extension since Allen and his teenage lover were artistically humiliated by his best pal's mistress in one of its galleries.

Walk east from Fifth Avenue into the Upper East Side, heading towards Second



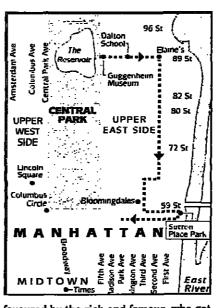
Avenue along 89th Street. In this swish neighbourhood, tall apartment blocks huddle next to older, low-rise townhouses. Joggers are let into vestibules by men in tasselled jackets and caps, while children stride out in smart uniforms that suggest



Continue along between Park Ave is the school that walk east, the ra give way to the nois Heading south, you



89th to the Dalton School, nue and Lexington. This Tracy attended. As you trefied neighbourhoods sy strip of Second Avenue. pass Elaine's restaurant, s action begins. It is still



dropped off here by taxi. This area, Yorkville, is a muddle of the posh and the humble; Elaine's is fiercely shuttered against its daytime neighbourhood. Across the street is a thrift shop. Close by is a butcher's, then a boot-mender's and a dry-cleaner's.

Wander south, pulled along by the tide of fast-walking Manhattanites. Find yourself a corner coffee shop with a window seat to people-watch, before cutting across to

Carry on to Bloomingdale's, home of the famous brown carrier bag. The appeal of the store and its reputation as a desirable

ever. The perfume counters are a perfect location for New Yorkers embroiled in liaisons, mostly of the dangerous kind. They did it in Manhattan and I guess they are still doing It is only about four blocks from here to

place in which to be seen are as strong as

the East River and Sutton Place Park at the end of 58th Street. This is the classic view of Queensboro Bridge, admired by Woody Allen and Diane Keaton from a bench. Today it is a relatively tranquil spot in another upmarket neighbourhood where smart women walk (or carry) small dogs Keaton's was a dachshund

Across from Sutton Place is flat, business like Queens, separated from haughty Manhattan by the swirling eddies of the river. Turn back towards Central Park and follow 57th Street, full of big shops and crowds. Along here is the Russian Tea Room, another famous New York eatery, where Isaac Davis informed his son that it was a good place to meet beautiful women. It is still closed for renovation after nearly two years, but the new owner is promising that it will be restored to its former splendour (with prices to match, no doubt).

A few blocks up, Central Park starts its magnificent sweep north. The horse-drawn carriages wait for the tourists and the romantics while the locals frown upon the horses' harsh urban setting. Arriving back in Central Park, you will have had a very good walk.

There's another set of Manhattan locations lower down the city, in Greenwich Village and SoHo, but keep that for another -

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Between a rock and a rich place

Biarritz has long been a jet-set destination. Now, from next week, the jets from Britain will be back. By Cathy Packe

or 150 miles to the north of Biarritz, the coastline is featureless: uninterrupted sand dunes, with no cliffs or natural harbours to speak of, But Biarritz is the abrupt punctuation between the gentle Cote d'Argent and the beginning of the much wilder Basque coast. A steep headland juts out into the Bay of Biscay. A short way offshore stands a large and solitary rock, the Rocher de la Vierge. With a statue of the Virgin on top, this monolith is the town's main landmark, and its original raison d'etre. This geological eccentricity is connected to the cliffs by an iron bridge, built by Gustave Eiffel; his more solid structure replaced an older wooden bridge, but even this is impossible to cross in bad storms.

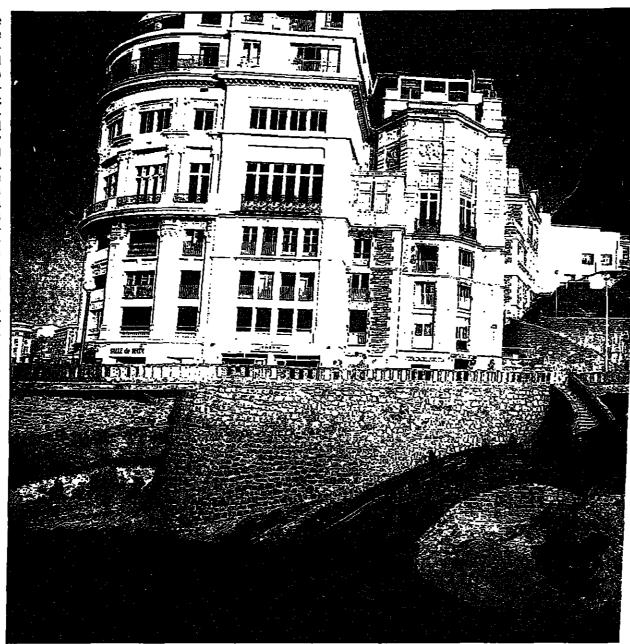
Initially the rock sheltered a few fishermen. Then the residents of Bayonne, five miles away, arrived by donkey to enjoy the medicinal qualities of the sea water. As bathing became fashionable, the Spanish crossed the border to make the most of the beaches, and an emperor made Biarritz his home.

The British have been regular visitors for more than a century, when the resort was first recommended in a popular tourist guide; and highprofile visitors, such as the future Edward VII, continued the trend. The Sterling crisis of 1931 proved a temporary damper, but by the Fifties and Sixties, the resort was served by frequent flights, with Caravelles and Comets bearing the jet set.

Then its international popularity plummeted in favour of more farflung destinations. But that could soon change: from Thursday, the British are back, airlifted in by new direct flights from Stansted.

While some towns are planned, others just happen. Biarritz is one of those that happened, with the result that its popularity as a tourist destination has turned the area behind the seafront into a freestyle urban sprawl. One look at the Place Clemenceau - not so much a square, more the epicentre of traffic chaos and you wonder if this is a town whose planning department is long

on lunch but short on ideas. Among the shops and hotels of this jumbled hinterland there are some semi-precious gems, like the



Europe's aristocracy has long had a soft spot for the seafront at Biarritz: soon anyone will be able to get tl

town's Historical Museum, in the disused church of St Andrew. It has a nostalgic display showing the development of Biarritz from small fishing village to playground of the international jet set. But visitors do not come here for the sights, more its magnificent natural location.

On the Plateau de l'Atalaye at the top of the cliffs, a tower was built to

place for watching the world go by, especially from the terrace of one of there. At the northern end of the Plateau there is still a small fishing harbour, on the other side, the old been a popular bathing spot for

sighted, smoke signals were sent up beach that is well protected from the Eugénie r as a warning. The area is now a good Atlantic waves, it is still a favourite with local families.

Many of the Spanish visitors who the many cases that have opened up crossed the border a few miles scurity. Bu down the coast were escaping the ravages of the Carlist wars. One of the families that came here regularly port, with its sheltered beach, has was that of the Countess of Montijo, who arrived with her daughter. keep watch for whales: if any were more than 200 years. As the only Eugenie, in 1838. Had it not been that

aere from Essex for under £80 narried the future Emperor, Nap oleon III, and persuaded him to visi

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t Biarritz with her, the vilit have remained in obt Napoleon was taken with res of the seaside and built home for himself and his ed-brick Villa Eugénie was Trace facing the sea at the re the Grande Plage meets Miramar, it has since been

extended and turned into the Hôtel du Palais, the most luxurious address in town.

In a social climate where spending the summer in a seaside resort had become de riqueur, the attractions of a resident Emperor made Biarritz irresistible to the upper classes from all over Europe. Gradually the clientele became more and more cosmopolitan, and more

villas and hotels were built to accommodate them. An orthodox church was built so that the Russian community, which arrived in the latter half of the 19th century, could continue to worship; a service is still held there every Sunday.

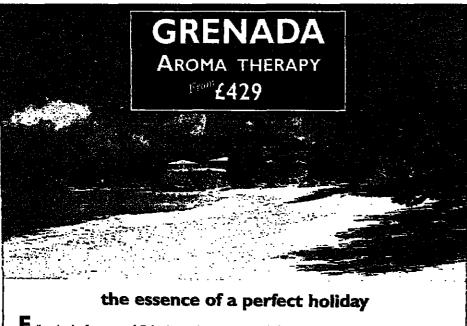
In 1857, the casino was built to entertain the visitors; nowadays, part of the building has been turned into a conference centre, but there are still rooms for serious gambling. "Suitable" clothes have to be worn even during the day, and the dress code becomes more formal after eight o'clock at night; but despite the rules, the casino lacks the panache of Monte Carlo.

Regardless of the attractions of being seen in the right places, the main reason to go to Biarritz - both then and now - is for its beaches, which stretch for miles to the north and south of the centre. The lighthouse at the Pointe St-Martin marks the northern end of the Plage Miramar, which is usually the quietest beach; it turns into the Grande Plage just below the Empress Eugénie's villa. This is the most fashionable beach in Biarritz and the most popular with holidaymakers. A row of cafés and restaurants have beach-side terraces, and immediately behind are the designer shops of the town centre: it is hard to find any shop in Biarritz that doesn't sell designer labels.

The atmosphere around the headland is completely different. This is the quietest part of town, with extravagant villas perched at various points on the cliffs.

The beaches on this stretch of coastline are very popular with surfers. There are a few places to hire boards, but most people bring their own, strapped to the top of the camper vans and four-wheel-drive vehicles, which they park along the coast road. Few of the registration plates are British, though countless UK cars roar past on the nearby autoroute en route to Spain. Perhaps if the pioneering passengers put the word around, Biarritz could be back on the British map of the world.

Flights from Stansted to Biarritz on Ryanair (0541 569 569) begin on 22 April, with a lowest return fare of £79.99. On the same day, the airline starts flying to Dinard in Britanny and Hahn, near the Moselle Valley



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I like these places, the ones in small towns with questionable plumbing, creaking staircases and lights timed to go off as you fumble with a giant key. I stayed in them often as a child and acquired the taste then. But my children despise them. peering longingly at the modern blocks which cluster alongside motorway exits, with names such as Mr Sleep and Quick Etape. These are the hotelier's version of the out-of-town shopping mall.

hotels have wallpaper on the

ceiling? Who decided that a bol-

ster is more comfortable than

a pillow? Who is that lunatic

who invariably rides his

souped-up Mobylette around

your hotel at three in the morn-

ing? These are some of the

great mysteries that French

On a recent trip to the south of France, we agreed a compromise: one night outbound in a modern botel, one returning in

WHY DO old-fashioned French a traditional auberge. I was s the children would see sense learn to appreciate the chart the old. Emilie (12) and Pat (5) accepted the deal, on co

tion that the modern hotel "the one with the dolphin" other words, a Novotel. We duly arrived at an inc

hotels present - and some of their most indelible features.

trial suburb of Troyes wt among hypermarkets warehouses and next to the port, stands the local Nov From the outset, it w. triumph of child friendlin a dolphin toy was handed o reception, there was a Megadrive game, there v purpose-built, anonymous and pool and playground. Our always the same. ily room was spacious, mo and functional, with telev minibar and all the para

nalia of an American mote children loved it. Dinner

even better. They were given rooms, which were strangely "Dolphi" models to build, could fill in a form choosing their own cold starter, and had excellent

A tale of two French notels

You long for the cosy, ramshackle auberge. Your children clamour for a modern hotel with

pool and games. There's only on ϵ : way to settle the dispute – try both. By James Ferguson

chips. The grown-up food (lamb and pike-perch) was also delicious. The next morning, there

was a vast buffet breakfast (children get to eat free).

misconceived. Vegetable soup or a plate of plain crudities and

Our family ro om was spacious and modern, with all the paraphernalia of an American motel. The children loved it

> our way back, crawling along the motorway amid millions of returning skiers. As night fell, the usual panic began to rise. but we make it to the cathedral city of Laon and the three-star Hôtel Bannière de France, where only two double rooms remained free. We took them, noting the flowery beige wallpaper, yielding beds and cramped bathrooms. Suitcases had to be beaved up a staircase and then seemed to fill the

Ten days later, we were on a chewy hamburger hardly fulfilled expectations. The waiter winced at the mention of ketchup. The parents' meal was above average, but proved no better really than Novotel. Only the crème caramel

warm and stuffy for mid-April. The restaurant closed at

nine, so we had to hurry. It was

a formal occasion, presided

over by a lugubrious waiter. The

children's menu, alas, was

earned genuine approval. The night was filled with strange creakings and rumbling pipes, and at 3am, the man on the moped made his deafening appearance. Nobody slept well and we declined breakfast. The bill was slightly 21 44) cost Fr 1,106 (£112)

higher than Novotel's. In a lastminute gesture, the melancholic waiter gave the children a handful of sweets each.

Emilie and Patrick remain convinced that new is better, that places such as the Bannière are "grunge". At their age I would certainly have thought the same. Perhaps they will one day develop a taste for the old inn, but I suspect that Novotel's bright atmosphere and friendly efficiency will spell France in their childhood memories as much as wallpapered ceilings do in mine.

James Ferguson paid £159 re-turn from Folkestone to Calais on Eurotunnel (0990 353535). A family room, dinner and breakfast for four at the Novotel Troyes Aéroport, Barberey (tel 00 33 3 25 71 74 74) cost Fr 1,030 (£105). Two children under 16 stay for free in their parents' room. Two double rooms and dinner for four at the Hôtel Bannière de France. 11 rue Franklin-Roosevelt, Laon (tel 00 33 3 23 23

£379 Hong Kong £389 Jo'burg £329 Karachi £269 Las Vegas Now available from an airport er from 20 UK airports and are via Amsterdam with KLAsussan

From all over the UK, to all over the world. KL and a super to selected further only, within the navel periods, and are subject to availability.

Gill Hasson decides to stay put when camping in Brittany, while, below, Tom Hindle goes touring to discover the area's rich past

Camp it up in La Grande style

summer of 1966 when we went for a week's holiday to a campsite in Hythe, Kent. Not for us days on the beach with our buckets and spades; my sister Rosalind and I spent most of the family holiday in the back of our dad's ancient Austin A40, being driven around Romney Marshes, as Dad taught our mother to drive. Well, maybe it wasn't every day, but it certainly seemed like it.

Fast-forward 30-odd years and I holiday, taking my own children to Brittany. After a long drive to our destination, the last thing I wanted to do was to spend the rest of my holiday persuading our two eldest children to get back into the car. Why visit places of interest when they're not interested? Neither did I want to spend time fighting with a reluctant two-year-old while I tried to strap him into his car seat. And I certainly didn't want to argue with my husband about directions.

What I did want was to arrive at a seaside resort and be provided with pleasant accommodation and a range of recreational facilities, all in one locality. I had no intention of getting back in the car until it was time to go home again.

I got what I wanted. For our summer holiday last year, the French resort of Saint Cast le Guildo fitted the bill perfectly.



found myself planning a camping holiday and I had booked the ferry and accommodation - a comfortable. well-equipped six-berth tent - with the self-drive camping operator. Eurocamp. St Cast itself is perched on a small promontory on the Emerald coast in north Brittany, about 35km east of the port of St Malo. The campsite, Camping le Chatelet, has been awarded three red tents by the Michelin guide, reflecting its remarkable location; panoramic views along the Emerald coast towards a castle, Fort Lalatte, on a nearby headland.

Although small, this peaceful campsite offered plenty of on-site facilities. The children had plenty to occupy them; two playground areas, a games room, an attractive pool area, a small lake for fishing and a children's club.

From the campsite, a short walk down a cliff path and some steps, you reach the happily sandy Plage de la This was our first family camping Frenaye. As you sit here gazing out

across the bay, the tops of innumerable wooden posts are visible above the waterline. These are bouchons, used for farming mussels. Eventually the tide goes out to reveal the extraordinary site of millions of mussels which have attached themselves to ropes wound round the posts.

Climbing over the rocks, making our way down to the mussel beds for a closer look, we discovered that the retreating sea had also left plenty of empty shells for us to collect.

The largest beach, a 20-minute walk from the campsite, is La Grande Plage at St Cast, a huge sandy beach which is the place to bring bats and balls, buckets and spades. Water sports facilities and sea fishing trips are available, and the local stables also offer horse riding along the beach.

If the weather turns bad, St Cast boasts a heated indoor seawater swimming pool.

There are some good cliff-walks. too. From the headland at St Cast Point you can walk a mile or two to the Pointe du Garde and take in views of the Emerald coast, so called because of the colour of the grassy cliff-tops and green fields.

Bike hire is available if you feel motivated enough to cover more ground. South-east of St Cast, we discovered the remains of a fortress which once guarded the Arguenon estuary. The children enjoyed searching for the pierres sonnantes, stones which made a strange metal-



lic sound when banged together. St Cast's fishing port serves up

excellent scallops and clams. Our big blow-out meal was at the town's La Marinière restaurant, which specialises in seafood and offers a children's menu.

crèpe dominates the gastronomic ings. We did make one trip in the car, including the ferry crossing from scene. We indulged ourselves at Le to the nearby supermarket. But Breton d'Or, a créperie 10 minutes walk from the campsite. The rest of our meals were cooked on the barbecue using fresh local produce But of course, in Brittany the Cast on Monday and Friday morn-

A history of the Brit pack

THE QUESTION was whether to beaten by the feet of countless largest being at Barnenez. end of the jetty, and the local channels, oyster beds and fish-

around the Sept Iles, noted for

their bird colonies and seals. Or

sail off to the island of Bréhat,

where the only car belongs to

Arthurian legend. Every Ro-

man camp seems to have be-

longed to the legendary king,

The area is steeped in Arthurian legend. Every Roman

camp seems to have belonged to the legendary king

is more, Arthur is reputed to be

buried on the Ile d'Avat just off

the coast close by Trebeurden.

ern sun beckoned. We turned

right, and aimed for the small

port of Camaret, on the Crozon

Peninsula. The fishing boats

lazed at anchor, old tall ships

were being refurbished, the

sun glinted off the chapel at the

This time, though, the south-

The area is steeped in

the local gendarmarie.

that was the only time I got behind

from the market which is held at St a week in June at St Cast through fice du Tourisme, St Cast: 00 33 2 96 Eurocamp Holidays (01565 626262), 41 81 52

is were suberd. B

South were some comfort-

ingly familiar places: Concar-

neau with its old and new ports.

beaches, and the fortified island

linked to the mainland by two

small bridges and defended by

massive medieval ramnarts.

Close by is the photogenic town

painted many of his Breton

pictures and where he and

other artists formed the Pont-

In Breton, morbihan means

"little sea". When you see the

extraordinary Gulf of Morbihan,

you understand why. The rivers

of Vannes and Auray empty into

a kind of miniature Caribbean.

though the 40-odd islands, sea

Aven school in 1888.

were heading south.

Newhaven to Dieppe. Other operators include Keycamp Holidays (0181-395 4000) and Eurosites Holidays (0870 751 0000).

ing boats make the scene

unique. And on the edge stands

Carnac. If sitting all day on one

of its sandy beaches bores.

then there is much to see; it was

a great prehistoric centre. Of

the ancient megalithic monu-

ments, the most famous are the

"Alignments": 11 rows of stand-

ing stones, the longest stretchig more than a kilometre.

and tumuli, the largest of the

latter some 120 metres long and

12 metres high. Excavations

have uncovered two burial

chambers and 20 stone chests.

The artefacts discovered there

are now in the Carnac museum.

gulf, was once the capital of the

Breton kingdom. The castle,

ramparts, the wash-houses by

the river, St Peter's cathedral.

the 16th-century gabled hous-

es and the old market square

conspire to intoxicate the visi-

tor with history. And if you

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HE WEEKEND REVIEW

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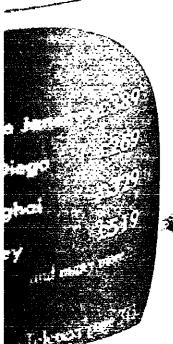
Biarritz and fe

r a medean hotel with

h By James Ferguson ne e <u>babs</u>

- 1. 2 in the TOTAL TERM SERVE man esta s

The fortified island at Concarneau Trouble spots: summer bookings for French Motorail trains Dozens of readers have contacted the travel desk of The Independent after strenuous efforts to book cars and families on services from Calais to Italy and the south of France failed.



SOMETHING FRENCH TO DECLARE

French Picture Libraru

NEWS FROM THE TRAVEL WORLD

be made in the week commencing 3 May. Therefore people hoping to travel out in August and back in September Rail Europe (0990 848 848) is may have to book in two stages. still refusing to take bookings for August and September, owing to

Rail Europe says that it has tripled the number of staff answhat it says are "problems with wering calls, but a check call yesterday was abandoned after company now says that book-20 minutes of listening to the Housemartins' greatest hits at eight pence a minute.

True or false: for the finest Breton food, visit London True, this week and next. Starting today, Harrods' food hall and restaurants stage a Breton promotion featuring the re-

gion's delicacies. From 21 to 27 April, Covent Garden market hosts a celebration of the region's culture and cuisine. A tasting tent will be open, 10am-7pm daily.

A likely eclipse story: Astronomers have predicted that this area will be one of the best locations in Europe from which to view this spectacular celestial occurrence

turn right or left after leaving

Roscoff. Turning left would take

us to the Cote du Granit Rose,

while the right turn led toward

For years we have had a love

affair with Britanny: in partic-

ular, that stretch of coastline be-

tween Morlaix and Perros-

Guirec. As you journey east it becomes the Pink Granite

Coast, with boulders carved

by wind, sea and rain into

mysterious shapes around

Trebeurden, Tregastel and

Ploumanac'h (if these names

look Cornish or Welsh it is

because of their common Celtic

origins). One tricorne-boulder

is now part of history. Shortly

before D-Day, the BBC warned

the local resistance forces to

ready themselves with the

question "Does Napoleon's hat

The best way to see this

rugged coastline is to wander

along the "Sentiers des Douaniers" - coastal paths

still rest in Perros-Guirec?

Brest and then the inviting sun

of the south.

ern France tour brochure issued by Blue Chip Travel (0131-226 6157), is typical of the assertions being made to promote destinations in advance of

the total solar eclipse that will sweep across Europe on the morning of 11 August.

customs officers in their strug

gle against local smugglers.

One of the most delightful

tracks winds from the pic-

turesque port of Ploumanac'h

along cliffs, through woods,

past the island chateau of

Costaeres to St Guirec. There.

just beyond the sea-facing

chapel. set in a small granite or-

atory built on the beach, stands

a statue of St Guirec himself.

Local legend has it that any

young girl sticking a pin in his

nose will be married within

the year. Generations of pins

have left the unfortunate saint

There is so much to visit:

chateaux; the cathedral of

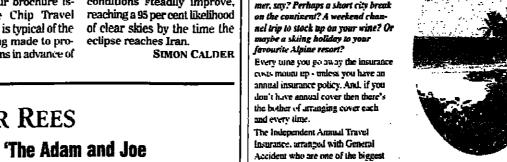
Treguier, pre-historic menhirs;

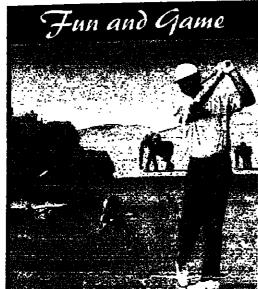
and allees couvertes, the

nasaliv challenged.

The astronomer and eclipse expert I contacted yesterday said the weather prospects for every location between Cornwall and the Alps were broadly similar: "pretty mediocre" seems to be the consensus.

From the Alps through Aus-This claim, made in the north- tria. Romania and Turkey, conditions steadily improve, reaching a 95 per cent likelihood of clear skies by the time the eclipse reaches Iran.





our computer systems". The

ings for August will be taken

from 26 April. An announcement

about September bookings will

stanning coastline offers great materois, and is an analess paradise. "Tro budining over the Namib or dune skiing at Sossusolei. And what could be more surreal than the sight of early morning golfers smperp descrit golf rse, being greeted by springbok grazina

he many joys of a

afail in Namibia is the sureris

array of leisure facilities. Namibia's

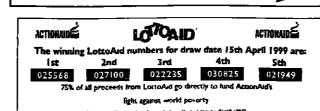
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JASPER REES



Show' (C4) has its fans, but I do not think i'm one of them

IN THE WEEKEND REVIEW PAGE 32



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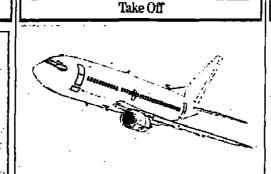


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可可能大力等的 网络阿姆斯斯特 电超程 经外外证据 "我我们的人们,这个人就在了我的我的教育的。" 医医动脉管



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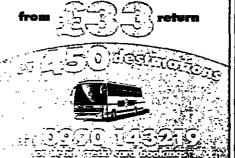
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A sponsored trek in February 2000 organised by Doug Scott CBE (first Briton to climb Everest). Help raise money for the first Tibetan STUPAS in Britain. Stupa building is an ancient technology that transforms pollution, war, famine and disease, creating conditions for health, harmony and prosperity - for the whole planet.

arrador describe in 1879 TELES AND CHESTE LEVE LOTING THE THE STORE 人名英格兰斯 医克勒氏试验检检验

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Rajasthan, visiting the 'Pink City' of Jaipur and the majestic Toj Mahai in Agra.

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The Romans not only built Britain's first road network, they also had maps and milestones to guide themselves around it. By Guy de la Bédoyère

Ancient roads all lead to Rome

being a Roman emperor must have been not having to WOITY about running public enquiries, especially before building roads. In AD43, Britain faced the first great roads lobby. Roman roads are something of an old chestnut. They built them straight and they pretty well built them everywhere. Mostly true, except for the straight part, since the straight bits often joined into one long zig-zag. What this meant for Britain is that

ancient tracks and brand-new roads were adapted into a colossal network whichwas a bit like the Pan-American Highway today (for the Channel crossing, substitute the Darien Gap). Travelling became truly international. By belonging to an empire that stretched to Syria, a Briton with the travel bug could make his way across the whole of Europe and the Near East armed with nothing more than a smattering of Latin and Greek. What's more, his money was good all the way, and there was no need for jabs, a passport or visas.

To make this kind of activity possible, the Romans produced road maps. Not neat fold-out sheets with contours and rocky shorelines, but something more like the schematic motorway maps which show straight lines and equally-spaced roundabouts. One of the best known is the Antonine Itinerary, a set of 225 routes across the empire which detailed stopping places, the mileage in between and the total distance for the trip. The road-builders erected milestones, and once they had worked out how many miles it was from A to B, that information became available to the compilers of the itineraries.

So. a Roman setting out from Vinovia (Binchester in County Durham) for Cataractoni (appropriately enough, Catterick in North Yorkshire) knew that he had a 22mile hike ahead of him and could count off the miles as he went.

The routes are useful ways of finding out the ancient names for the towns of Roman Britain. A Briton

he best thing about planning a winter by the Mediter- up a fourth-century lead coffin cur ranean made his way through Durobrivis (Rochester) and other places to Rutupiae (Richborough, near Sandwich, in Kent) to catch his boat across to Gaul.

By the early Middle Ages, hardworking monks had masses of mouldering Roman maps to hand. One of them produced the extravagantly named Ravenna Cosmography about the year 700. Unlike modern travel writers, the Ravenna monk admitted that he hadn't travelled himself (a good disclaimer). That explains a diversion on the exact coordinates of Paradise, and why he didn't appreciate the problems of using sewn-together sheets which split some names in half. Sometimes

The surviving Roman milestones themselves speak as a silent testimony to Britain's earliest road-building boom

he went round in circles and the same place turns up more than once, and he also thought rivers were places. But the Ravenna routemaster gives us a colossal amount of information, because he had access to archives which are long since lost. From his list come all sorts of exotic names.

Chester shines forth as Deva Victrix, thanks to its having once been home to the XX legion, Valeria Victrix. Abergavenny was once Gobannio (pronounce the "b" as a "v"), and Middlewich was Salinae (thanks to the salt-flats).

One feature of the Roman world now usually lost were the cemeteries that lined the roads outside town walls (burying within was forbidden for hygienic reasons). Recent excavations at one such cemetery in what is now Spitalfields have turned

rently being opened and conserved in public view at the Museum of London. It is thought to contain the skeleton of a wealthy young woman - but who she was and whence she came are likely to remain mysteries.

The surviving milestones themselves speak as a silent testimony to Britain's earliest road-building boom. Many can be found in remote places or reused in later town walls or other buildings.

A whole series has been found near Neath in south Wales, and another collection in Cornwall. The church at St Hilary, Cornwall, has a milestone, belonging to the years 307-337 and naming Constantine I. planted in its floor. Found nearby, it seems oddly out of place considering that evidence for Roman occupation in Cornwall is pretty thin. Yet, nearly 1,700 years ago, a road system existed, maintained by the state. The milestones seem to have re-

newed episodically as new regimes sprang up, especially in the vicious chaos of the third century when one bloodthirsty maniac after another took power. Incredibly, three alone name Florianus, whose two-month reign in 276 ended on a battlefield at Tarsus in Asia Minor. At Vindolanda, close to Hadrian's Wall, one milestone after another was put up and the old ones buried nearby. Near Carlisle, one naming Carausius ta British usurper) was simply turned upside down and the new emperor's name carved at the other end. Such public monuments invited vandalism. At the villa at Rockbourne in Hampshire, two milestones have turned up by the villa buildings, evidently removed from an unknown road by the owner as handy blocks.

Strangely, few milestones actualgive the traveller much useful information. One found near Leicester tells the weary wanderer in three and a half lines all about Hadrian and his titles for the year 120, but at least adds at the end that it is two miles to Ratis (Leicester). For the most part, the milestones do little more than brandish the incumbent emperor's name. One can only hope that enterprising passers-by painted



The milestone at Vindolanda may have helped Roman tax collectors reach areas that other regimes could not

on vital intelligence, like distance, bandits ahead or other obstacles awaiting the unwary wanderer.

Despite their shortcomings, the milestones of Roman Britain are one of the latest pieces of evidence for the maintenance of state organisation. They peter out after 337, leaving Roman Britain another 73 years to go, but other official inscriptions or monuments had already largely ceased to exist.

Perhaps the sub-text in the Late Roman totalitarian state was that this was how the rapacious tax-col-

parts of the province that other regimes could not have reached. Imagine if the Department of Transport was run by Customs and Excise. That six-lane motorway to that obscure part of Wales would have been built by now and to hell with all those sheep.

Running the empire from Rome and local capitals made road resources essential. River transport was important, but the deep-worn cart-ruts in the roads leading out of Roman Cirencester show that the roads were heavily used. It wasn't lectors could find their way to the all commercial traffic. The grave-

stones at Bath show that this was a place which attracted people with ailments from other parts of the Roman world to bask in the warm waters of the sacred spring.

Perhaps the pilgrims used a guidebook to Roman Britain. None survives, but in the second century Pausanias wrote a traveller's guide to Greece, with useful information such as recommending the road between Argos and Tegea as "very good for traffic". If only he knew what he'd started.

Guy de la Bédoyère is presenter of

to be repeated on Saturday mornings on BBC2 from 1 May. He is also author of a number of books on Roman Britain including 'Hadrian's Wall, A History and Guide' (Tempus 1998), and The Golden Age' (Tempus 1999). To see a Roman milestone, visit the Romano-British Gallery at the British Museum (0171-636 1555) or the Roman fort and settlement at Vindolanda (Northumbria) (01434 344277) where a solitary Roman milestone still sits beside the road

'The Romans in Britain', which is

Get on the bus, Gus

Hugh O'Shaughnessy recommends coach travel over a Virgin experience

the dark when Ted the driver strolled down the coach to the lavatory at the back "It's alright, lads, she's on autopilot." If they hadn't noticed that Garv the relief driver had hopped on at a service station a few miles back and taken over at the wheel, the two elderly Irish ladies sitting in front of mine might have had a nasty turn.

We were aboard Resa - so named, Jody the young steward announced as we left London, from the letters on her number plate. Jody, too, was a bit of a card. He told us that if we wanted to set fire to the coach. and he sincerely hoped that we didn't, we could use the exits front and back and the one on the roof. We should try not to put litter on the floor and just sit back and enjoy the journey. It would be unfair to suggest

that the 4pm service from Victoria Coach Station was some sort of slack operation. Not having used a long-distance coach service in Britain for decades, I had booked with trepidation. Would it be packed full, noisy, smoky, beery and generally purgatory, and take a lot longer than the scheduled four-and-a-half hours?

The booking clerk on the tion appeared at 8.33pm. As Ted the station stops in advance but phone was polite and efficient, the £12 fare was inexpensive and the tickets were ready when I collected them the night before departure at a scrupulously clean bus terminal.

There were scarcely a dozen of us on the spotless coach. We clicked on our seat belts and started from Victoria on the stroke of four. We hit the mo-

unloaded the luggage compartment, there was a cheery wave from Jody and Gary. Because I love trains and

wanted to compare performance by road and rail. I took the Virgin train back to London. Again I had some trepidation but this time the foreboding proved comprehensively justified. Booking my ticket the day

I could have flown to the Canaries and back for £2 less than Virgin charged to carry me from Liverpool to London

settled down comfortably, tuning my radio to the PM Programme and dozing off.

I was awake again as the radio masts at Daventry appeared. Shortly before Warrington, Jody brought me a 60p cup of tea. In the dark the town took on a sense of mystery; the multi-storey car park at the coach station was a blaze of light, and there were strange glimpses of glistening water courses. Liverpool Coach Sta-

torway at a smooth run and I before departure brought the first shock. "That'll be £61," said the booking clerk. "No," I said, "I only want a single, second class to Euston for the first train tomorrow." "That'll be £61," came her reply a little

more crossly. The next day I found myself a seat in a carriage which had no seats reserved and was inexplicably labelled as being in an "Orange Zone". At 5.45am we set off on the dot. Dave, the senior conductor, announced

strangely forbore to say anything about catering dining cars, buffet cars or trolleys. Having paid a mere £61. a proper breakfast was denied to me and I bought a cup of tea and a "Délice de France Real Danish Pastry direct from Denmark" at the buffet counter.

We came to a halt in open country, the Chilterns stretching ahead of us. Another Virgin locomotive had broken down and we were in a queue to get past it. Eventually we did, passing a train full of miserable souls waiting despairingly for a new engine. My £61 got me to Euston breakfastless and halfan-hour late. No one told me that my ticket entitled me to free tea. Nor did anyone offer me a 64-year-old who many say

looks older - a senior rail card. A newspaper advertisement recently offered return air fares to the Canaries for £59. I could have flown to islands off the coast of Africa and back for 12 less than the Man with the Grinning Beard charged for carrying me unsatisfactorily from Liverpool to London.

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Roman Emperors Augustus and Tiberius.

There are many varied sights including Roman villas, beautiful scenery and gardens, and a rugged coastline of caves and cliffs. Flights are from Gatwick to Naples by Monarch Airlines every Saturday afternoon with a connecting hydrofoil or ferry ride from Sorrento. We have chosen two splendid hotels
- the Hotel Floridiana and 4-star La Residenza
as our base to relax, and from which to explore La Floridiana is a few minutes from the Augusto Gardens, and near a public swimming pool and tennis courts. There is a large and 7 nights from £495 welcoming hall with colour satellite television, an American bar and a large restaurant with

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7 nights from £495 (room and breakfast) based on the Hotel Floridiana

or for a supplement of £16 per night (including half board) at the 4-star superior Hotel La Residenza

location in Capri, just a few minutes stroll away from the famous 'Piazzetta' and the funicular railway. All rooms and suites are with bathrooms, direct line telephones, fridge har and television via satellite. There is a fully equipped swimming pool and a spacious

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW The Independent 17 April 1999

sisal estate in the Yucatán provides hours of peace interrupted only by the calls of exotic birds. By Alison

Criado-Perez

slowly but noisily in the Yucatán. The blackness faded into grey through the window of my bungalow as a crescendo of squeaks. ouzzes and croaks, and the raucous wolf-whistle of some unknown bird. ook place outside. I couldn't linger n bed; I had to go and explore. A path led me past tall and elegant palms and through bushy ferns and shrubs. Hands of bananas nestled among dark-green fronds and, high above me, deep yellow papayas hung in clusters. On either side of the path were thousands of hardwood saplings - 75,000 to be precise. This exotic world in which I was wandering had not sprung up unaided. It was the fruit of a Mexican botanist and a Spanish architect.

Monica Hernandez and Anibal Gonzales bought the crumbling and overgrown Hacienda Katanchel on «Iexico's Yucatán peninsula a couple of years ago. It was intended as a country estate but the chance discovery of 33 workmen's cottages ouried in the undergrowth sparked the idea of turning it into a hotel. These days, the hotel sits at the end of a 4km track with an air of stillness. reace and slightly decayed grandeur hanging over it all. Here was no glitzy, modern luxury, but a more evocative kind of elegance: white linen napkins, silver spoons and wory-handled fish knives, whirring overhead fans and high ceilings; the luxury of time and space.

Monica's passion for the hacienda came across vividly when I met her on my early-morning stroll. She was already out supervising the small army of gardeners that is kept busy caring for the sapotillas, oaks, silk-cotton trees, cedars and walnut trees. We headed in the direction of the swimming-pool for breakfast, with splashes of colour catching the eye. "Those crimson spires are ginger blossom. And do you see those?" Monica pointed to succulent scarlet and yellow flowers. "We call them beber pajaros – birds' drink – because, in the dry season, the dewdrops collected in them are sometimes the only source of moisture."

A bird with a bright turquoise breast skimmed over the water. "Do you know this tree that we're sitting under?" asked Monica_"It's the chicle tree - the resin was the original chewing-gum," Botany had suddenly become interesting.

The botany lesson continued in the restaurant. The hacienda was



The lucrative sisal fibres, or 'green gold', that were once spun out at Hacienda Katanchel are today rarely produced in the Yucatan

The ghost of Rumpelstiltskin

once a producer of henequen (sisal) and the restaurant has been arches, antique machines still converted from the old Casa de Maquinas. Gigantic wheels and crank shafts have been left in position as a reminder that this cavernous building once throbbed to the noise of heavy machinery that crushed and stripped the thick creamy-white fibres would have been hung out to dry in the sunshine before being twisted into the rope that generated such wealth for the hacienda in the 19th century. No wonder that henequen was known as green gold.

But green gold went the way of chicle. It proved no financial match for the synthetic fibres that started to be produced and the Yucatan sisal haciendas slowly sank into decline. A few struggled on; and a half-hour drive brought me to one that still survives - just - as a working

process the agave leaves. The only obvious sign of modernisation is that the machines are no longer powered by the old Made-in-England steam engines. Electricity has taken over. down the mosquitoes."

The noise - and the midday heat - were overpowering as the men break. They had been there since 4am and they still had another three the thundering machines, trying not to think of what would happen if I lost my footing, and left the workmen churning out fine, strong fibres. Next time I wrap up a parcel I shall think of them.

For me it was siesta time and I headed back to one of the handwoven hammocks that are slung between pillars on every available patio and veranda at Hacienda Katanchel. In the sultry, silent heat, with the air moved lazily by the over-

pink pillars and disintegrating head fans, I watched a fat gecko crawl languidly up a wall. The only sonably awake, flying back to join his friends in the rafters. "We encourage the bats," said Anibal. "They keep

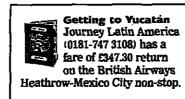
The hacienda's eco-friendly policy was in evidence again that orange soup among the ghosts of the factory workers, and struggled with hours to go. I squeezed my way past a decision between sea-bass fillet in ripe mango sauce or chicken breast "bee-belt", a cacophony of frogs started up. I was told that they were left alone to wander around the hacienda because they eat the mosquito larvae.

Monica and Anibal work hard to ensure that everything fits into an ecological cycle. The thousands of trees that they have planted are just the beginning of an ambitious reforestation programme, using the same organic agricultural tech-

niques as the ancient Mavans. The water for the swimming-pool is completely pure, pumped up from old wells in the grounds and filtered back into the land.

The adoption of Mayan techniques seems entirely appropriate on the hacienda. Mexico is full of examples of the layers of history. with one civilisation building on the ruins of a former one. It was not totally surprising, therefore, when the ruins of a Mayan observatory were discovered in the overgrowth at Hacienda Katanchel.

The Mayans could have done a lot of work in their observatory the night I was there; the Milky Way was glittery bright as I strolled back to the Casa del Encargado, my private, terracotta-painted cottage in the jungle. Enjoying the perfume of the limonaria tree, I lay in the hammock and listened to the night music of the rainforest, whose daily cycle was now complete.





Alison Criado-Perez paid £300 (excluding flights) for a twonight package at the Hacienda Katanchel through Carlson Wagonlit (00 52 5 560 0123). To contact the hacienda direct call 00 52 99 234020 от e-mail: hacienda@mail.mda.com.mx

Getting to Guadalajara Richard Naisby paid £149 for a Britannia charter from Gatwick to Puerto Vallarta. The fivehour bus journey from there to Guadalajara costs £5 each way. Through South American Experience (0171-976 5511). Continental has flights from Gatwick, Manchester, Glasgow and Birmingham, via New York or Houston, to Guadalajara and other Mexican cities, for £430.

Welcome to the spicy world of Latin America

Dubbed the most Mexican of cities and fuelled by tequila and mariachi, Guadalajara will make you happy. By Richard Naishy

GUADALAJARA IS best appreciated with the help of Tequila. Not the drink, you understand, though that helps too, but the region. The road from the coast climbs its sinuous way through the mountains and on to the high plains where the blue agave grows. The great fields of the spiky cactus lend their flavour to the spirit made in the huge distilleries that have made Tequila famous. but the vicious, sabre-like plants and the harsh, white light of the plains are a great way to prepare for the more genteel charms of Mexico's second city.

Perhaps it is the high, wide spaces of the approach that lend Guadalajara the curious and beguiling intimacy that is unusual for a city of five million souls. It is the cradle of some of the most famous Mexican traditions - mariachis, cocklights and lager, as well as tequila. Somehow, though, the scale is personal, the people are welcoming and the rhythm is intoxicating.

Guadalajara is not lacking in great buildings, but they don't have the formal stuffiness of so much monumental architecture. The city is dominated by the gloriously profligate domes, spires and columns of the cathedral. A spectacular confection of styles, it has evolved, rather than been designed. and is all the better for it. Especially since it has also evolved a quartet of lovely green plazas on all sides. around them.

Most of the great cultural sights are clustered around here, including the Palacio de Gobierno. The father of Mexican independence, Miguel Hidalgo, issued his first speech abolishing slavery from here covered in spectacular murals depicting the struggles of the peasantry against Fascism, Communism and the Church. Outside, I

havens from the snarl of traffic the national football obsession. cleaned him out of all his soft drinks. Hawkers tempted fans with trinkets and cheap baubles. I moved on, down the Plaza Tapatia - cobbled. lined with bars and infused with a night-time joie de vivre. On a side street lined with bridal-gown shops, I was enticed into an upstairs eatery and the central staircase is now to become an instant celebrity, and

the source of much confusion. Possibly the first gringo to choose this unprepossessing café. I caused much amusement with my struggles dodged horse-drawn buggies, with the defiantly local menu. Finally, flatulent Volkswagens and smoke- I settled for tortus ahogadas. The

The 'soup' was purest chilli sauce, and the bread was drowning in it in Titanic style

belching buses to reach the sanctuary of the Plaza de Armas.

Rich evening light played golden games with the tracery of the cathedral façade, giggling kids swarmed over the bandstand, and a blind trumpeter busked a beautiful, sad melody. Squadrons of pigeons strafed the pavement café where I sat admiring the elegant women and sharp-suited blades who turned the

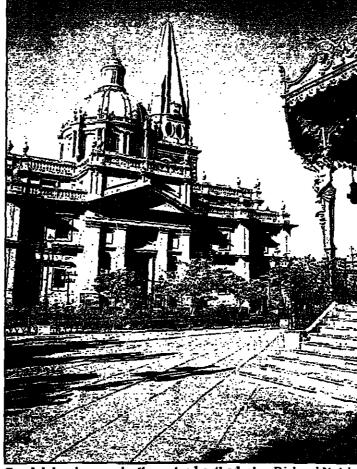
evening stroll into a fashion parade. Cheap entertainment was offered a couple of blocks away, where a huge scrum of lads had gathered around a TV-shop window to follow waiter grimaced and blew out his cheeks in an elaborate mime. "Picante [hot], señor," he said, "Good," I replied with bravado. "Mucho picante, senor." "No problem," I said, and sat up expectantly. While my food was being prepared. I looked up the translation of what I'd just ordered: "drowning cakes".

Eventually my dish arrived and all was clear. A meat-filled roll lay in a dish of red liquid. The "soup" was purest chilli sauce, and the bread was drowning in it in Titanic style. I loved it. The café owner loved it, before lurching, inflated and mouth ablaze, into the night air.

I wandered through quiet streets. past beautifully lit buildings, and heard my destination long before I saw it. The Plaza de Mariachis is the spiritual home for the legions of itinerant musicians found all over Mexico, and here they were out in force. Hundreds of men swaggered, clutching instruments, while yet more reinforcements lurked in blacked-out vans parked up alleyways. The atmosphere might have been threatening but for the absurdity of the costumes.

I found a seat at one of the grubby bars that line the elegant colonnade, ordered a beer and sat back to enjoy the show: Mariachi players outnumbered the punters by at least 20 to one and competed fiercely if anyone looked as if they required a song. A local opposite me asked whether this was the first time I'd been here. "Yes." I replied. "That's a shame," he said. "Things used to be so much better. Now, the bands are so expensive that only people wanting to impress someone can pay maybe for a girlfriend, a mistress or a fiancee." Never, I noticed, for a wife.

Indeed, the ratio of musicians to customers means that for most this is less a serious attempt at entertainment, more a social club for men who like dressing up. The costoo, possibly because I nearly tumes are all different but share



Guadalajara's organically evolved cathedral Richard Naisby

themes. The fashionable mariachiplayer wears a shirt with lapels the size of bathmats and the kind of cravat rarely seen since Englebert Humperdinck was in the charts. Capacious beer-guts overhang eyewateringly tight trousers and cowboy boots that breed a strutting John Wayne walk. The effect is topped off with the kind of facial foliage that

would make Burt Reynolds blush. The sound of competing bands swirls around the compact plaza.

times achieving remarkable harmony. Enticing smells drift from the kitchens under the arches, mingling with the odours of hot dog stalls beyond the fountain. The elegant facade of the plaza contrasts with the mass of concrete across the main road. Mexico is an enticing mix of old colonial values and brash modernity. order and chaos, tranquillity and earshattering noise. Throw in beer and tequilas, and you realise why locals maintain that Guadalajara is the most Mexican of cities.

LAKE CHAPALA

THE BIGGEST lake in Mexico is in danger of losing one of its few claims to fame. Long and thin, it is pressed between parched, barren hills and baked by a blinding white sun. Few boats disturb the glassy surface of Lake Chapala and at midday, the streets of Chapala town were sensibly empty. Fishing boats lay stranded in the goalmouth of the field where boys played football by the promenade. The jetty stopped a hundred yards from the reeds that

now fringe the water's edge. An hour from Guadalajara, the city's insatiable thirst and the demands of irrigation are draining the lake's lifeblood and it is shrinking. The plight of the Aral Sea aroused the wrath of nations, but here the locals have an even more powerful weapon to use in the fight against their vanishing lake. Six thousand retired Americans live around the lake, and the expat yacht clubs are battling against the

The second secon

vanishing of the waters. Even the most famous expat wasn't exactly enamoured with the place. DH Lawrence lived in Chapala in 1923 and set The Plumed Serpent here. He wrote about the "hard, cruel hills", the strange atmosphere and the "spermcoloured waters of the lake. Lawrence must have had an unusual and unpleasant physiological condition, because the waters are now a dirty sludgy green and are getting smaller all the time.

RICHARD NAISBY

معكدا من الملاصل



48 hours ... in Bilbao

The Basque capital is cheaper and easier to reach than ever, and more fun when you get there. By Adam Lechmere



Cultural Afternoon

You really need more than an afternoon to visit the Guggenheim Museum, (2) Frank O Gehry's shimmering titanium-clad creation. From the north bank of the river it looks like a gorgeous ship, come from the future to dock at Bilbao. Glass cleaves to concrete, silvery titanium meets smooth white plaster and it has no straight lines. You are drawn into the belly of the building, painlessly parted from a derisory 700 pesetas (£3), and find yourself in a wonderful hall that seems to go straight up to the sky. High above are vertiginous walkways that mysteriously disappear behind curved walls of glass and you can get agreeably lost in the stairways and passages. The galleries are generous and uncluttered. Take advantage of the audio-tour, which explains how it was all put together. The building is indescribable: what Prince Charles would think of it is anybody's guess.

Bilbao's cool new Metro stations were designed by Norman Foster. Particularly appealing are the steps down to the platforms, which seem to

hang in mid air, suspended by wires from the ceiling. Some of the entrance tunnels (like the one at Casco Viejo just by the Plaza Nueva 🕡 are perfect concrete ovals that disappear discreetly into the wall. Architects love them.

La Scala (Ercilla 40) (13) has the best breakfast in town, and a cafe con leche that will set you

up for the rest of the day. For towering club

sandwiches, the Cafe Boulevard (2) can't be

beaten, although the queues at EME (Calle Gral

Called "pintxos" in the Basque country, and "tapas" in the rest of Spain, lunch on the run was invented here. Pintxos in Bilbao are bar snacks (anchovy sandwiches. Serrano ham and so on) laid out on the bar top. The barman will keep track of what you eat. Or order raciones" and a bottle of the Basque wine – Txakoli. The old town has the best selection of places - try Casa Victor Montes (1) in the Plaza Nueva or El Globo, La Viña and Lekeltio in the Calle Diputación. Another popular place for lunch - but definitely not a hurried one – is the restaurant in the Guggenheim. Make sure you book (00 34 94 423 93 33).

0.5 miles

Lunch on the run

Why go now? The port of Bilbao is emerging from decades of post-industrial gloom. The old docks may still be overhung with cranes. but the Guggenheim is drawing thousands of visitors and the bars and restaurants are full. The days are now long and warm, so

you can make the most of Bilbao's dramatic colonnaded riverfront. At roughly 250 pesetas to the pound, the exchange rate has rarely been better. And at the end of this month (29 Apr). Go. BA's no-frills offshoot, starts flying from Stansted and is set to trigger a new fares war.

Don't miss the exquisitely curved Puente

The icing on the cake

Check in

Demure dinner

At the top end of the scale, with doubles for more than £100 a night, the **Hotel López de Haro ①** (Calle Obispo Orueta 2, 00 34 94 423 5500) Is reckoned to be the best in town, closely followed by the Hotel Carlton (2) (Plaza Federico Moyua 2, 00 34 94 416 46 28) which has a splendid antique interior and is in the very centre of town-rooms here cost between £50 and over £100. More characterful is the Hotel Ercilia 3 (Calle Ercilla 37, 00 34 94 443 9335), favoured haunt of actors, opera singers and well-known bullfighters. If you want something cheaper, there are hundreds of places in the old city the Casco Viejo 🙆

At the smart end of the scale are the "typical" Basque

squid cooked in its ink. One of the best is Gorrotxa 6

restaurants serving fish and seafood, with specialities such as

(entrances on Calle Urquijo 30 and Calle Licenciado Poza 9. 00 34 94 443 49 37), enjoyed by actors, local celebrities and

politicians. For something less demure, wander round the old

town (4), where the streets are so full at 1am you'd think it

was 9pm. Look out for bars with restaurants at the back. One

of the jolliest is the Rio-Oja (Calle Perro, 4). No need to book.

but don't get there before 8.30pm, as no one eats before then.

Concha, 5) are evidence they're not far behind in the sandwich stakes. If you really want a blow-out, go to one of the big hotels and pay (usually about 1,000 pts - £4) for a full breakfast, with choice of everything from sweet

Muelle de Uribitarte

Bracing brunch

cakes to bacon and eggs.

Window shopping Bilbao isn't Madrid or Barcelona, but it's rapidly filling with upmarket clothes shops. Wander down the smart shopping street of Lopez de Haro, (3) or the smart little boutiques of the old town. For Txakoli wine or local Basque cheeses, go to any colmado. Try El Rincon de Vino (6) (c/ Gral Concha, 6), Granja de Santa Teresa (7) (c/ Castanos, 1) or the Mercado de al Ribera (9).



Start at the Ayuntamiento (Town Hall) 6 and walk down the Muelle del Arenal, 🕡 a nice little park where, on Sunday mornings, there is a flower market and music in the bandstand. Nip over the Puente de Arenal to have a look at Abando station, and its colonnaded platforms. Go back over the bridge, past the wonderful Teatro Arriaga, 3 and follow the river round to the Mercado de la Ribera, 9 Bilbao's biggest. From there make your way through the back streets to the heaving market in the Plaza Nueva. After that you'll need a cup of coffee, on the terrace at the bottom of the Calzadas de Mallona steps (1) Suitably refreshed, climb the steps (there are about 100 of them)

for a marvellous view of the city and the hills around

Zubi Zuri, (1) designed by Santiago Calatrava, who built Manchester's Trinity bridge. Like the Guggenheim, it echoes Bilbao's maritime character. The museum reminds you of a silver supertanker, and Zubi Zuri's curved cantilever looks like the sail of a huge yacht. If bridges are your thing, there's another interesting one -Puente Euskalduna (2) a covered walkway built in 1997 by Javier Manterola.

liveliest bar in the city.

An aperitif For a real Bilbao experience, go into one of the colmados in the Plaza Nueva. Traditionally, a colmado was a grocer's shop that also served drinks and nibbles, but many in Bilbao have undergone a makeover and are now high-class delicatessens. They're still great for a sherry before lunch, surrounded by cheeses and fine wines. One of the biggest is El Colmado Ibérico (Calle Urquiio 20). The old-fashioned ones can be found unde the arches in the Plaza Nueva. In the evening, for the best gin and tonic in Bilbao go to the art-deco Cafe Boulevard (1) (Paseo del Arenal, 3), the oldest and

Go (0845 605 4321) has a return fare of £80.

Beam Down

From Heathrow, Iberia (0171-830 0011) has a fare of £95 return midweek (£105 at weekends) until the end of April. British Airways (0345 222111) also flies from Heathrow. Bilbao's Sondika Airport is an easy 10km from the centre of town; a taxi should cost around 2,000 pts (£8), and the bus which leaves the airport every half-hour is less than £1.

GLOBAL AGENDA

New Orleans The only thing warmer than the weather during the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is the welcome you'll get from the 10,000 musicians. cooks and craftspeople assembled to entertain you for the 10-day event. Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, the festival boasts a stronger-thanever musical roll-call, including Branford Marsalis, Nancy Wilson, Dr John, Ray Charles, Cassandra Wilson, and the Isley Brothers. And when your energy flags, you can refuel at one of the myriad food stalls serving Creole, Cajun, Caribbean and African specialities. All proceeds from the festival go towards projects that help the local community. Various locations, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA (00 1 504 522 5555) Friday until 2 May, \$1.50-\$35

Berlîn For five days only this month you can explore hidden corners of Berlin's Reichstag when it opens to the public prior to becoming home to Germany's government in the autumn. The building has been converted for use by the Bundestag by the British architect Sir Norman Foster, who began work on the Reichstag in 1995, just after the



artist Christo had enveloped it in one of his famous "wrappings". Foster has retained elements of the 19thcentury building's history to create a "living museum", while emphasising public accessibility and procedural openness, and this is a unique chance to survey the results. The public restaurant on the too floor opens on 26 April. Reichstag, Platz der Republik, Berlin (00 49 30 226 2990) Wednesday until 25 April, free

Stockholm Aleksandr Rodchenko: 1891-1956 presents the whole range of this classic modernist's work for the first time in Scandinavia. As well as his pioneering

monochrome paintings and sculptures, the exhibition also features examples of his architecture, photography and design. The show explores Rodchenko's artistic responses to the revolutionary changes in Russia, including his denunciation by the authorities as a "formalist" in the Thirties, and his relationships with other members of the Moscow avant garde, such as the poet Vladimir Mayakovsky. Modern Museum, Skeppsholmen, Stockholm, (00 468 5195 5200) until 24 May, SK40-SK60

Amsterdam If you're looking to refurbish your home, head across the Channel this weekend: you'll find plenty to inspire you at the Amsterdam Arts & Design Fair. Held in the historic Beurs van Berlage, the former stock exchange, the fair gives over 40 dealers from eight countries the chance to show their wares, authenticated Bauhaus, De Stijl and Art Deco titbits among them. Two Frank Lloyd Wright chairs, never before shown in Europe, will also be on display. Beurs van Berlage, 243 Damrak, Amsterdam (00 31 71 572 4477) tomorrow until 25 April, 40 guilders + catalogue

SHARON GETHINGS

24-HOUR ROOM SERVICE: HOTEL CARAVANSERAL, UDAIPUR, INDIA

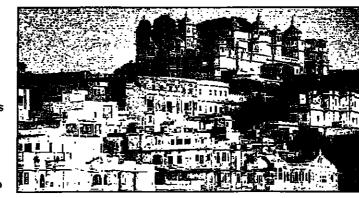


AMONG THE legions of hotels along the edges of Udaipur's beautiful Lake Pichola, the Caravanserai is a gem. The most famous

hotel in the city is the Lake Palace Hotel, an island in the centre of the water, but unless you want to spend £200 a night to he surrounded by braying tourists, Caravanserai is a more authentic alternative. Plus you get a view of the Lake Palace that no one staying there does.

Caravanserai is a tall, slim building at the end of one of the city's twisting, turning streets. Behind the wrought-iron gates and past the handkerchief-sized garden, the hotel has a cool, marble interior and a rooftop restaurant that serves mouthwatering local dishes. Great for watching the comings and goings down on the lake, from the early morning washerwomen on the ghats to the alwaysperfect sunset on the mountains across the water.

The roof is also ideal for watching the parrots, eagles, ravens, mynah birds and myriad others that pass by during the day. An enormous swarm of fruit bats flew over the roof one



eco-friendly horse-and-cart taxi. night – slightly alarming, but no less beautiful.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION Hotel Caravanserai is at 14 Lalghat, Udaipur 313 001, India (00 91 294 411103/fax 00 91 294

Transport: There are autorickshaws available outside the gates to tour the city and beyond. although all the shops and most of the sights are within walking or roof-viewing distance (if you can stand the heat). Time to airport: The little

airport that connects Udaipur to Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay) is 20km away. The quickest way in is by taxi. Time to railway station: The station is 5km away, about 10

minutes by auto-rickshaw, or

much longer by the more

ARE YOU LYING

COMFORTABLY? The hotel staff are young and enthusiastic. Can't be bothered to go upstairs for supper? They'll bring it to you. Want a driver to take you to the Jain temples? No sooner said than done. The rooms also have marble floors, so a cool, soothing underfoot sensation is guaranteed. Slightly disconcerting are the blue tints on the windows, but they do prevent neighbours peeking in. Ask for a corner room (11, 21 or 31) for a view of the lake. Beds: Minimal mattresses that are surprisingly comfortable. with crisp, white sheets and a suitably ethnic bedspread. Freebies: This is India... nothing to speak of, except a lurid pink soap in the bathroom

and mini-rolls of loo paper that are very handy for taking out in vour bag. Temperature: All rooms have

air-conditioning (Rajasthan can be 40°C plus at this time of year) and a ceiling fan, and early mornings on the roof are very pleasant

. Bathroom: Bathrooms in India tend to be pretty basic. These are decent - and the showers have hot water - but they won't win any prizes for interior decor.

KEEPING IN TOUCH TV and radio: None in rooms. Phone/fax/Internet: There are phones in the rooms, but international connections and faxes must go through the reception. Internet cafés are springing up all over the city with online rates down to two rupees a minute. Newspapers: The Times of India is available, but the "One Stop Shop" across the road has a wide selection of papers, magazines and second-hand books (VS Naipaul, Salman

THE BOTTOM LINE All rooms cost 1,195 rupees (around £19) per night but longer-stay visitors are sure to be able to negotiate a deal. Breakfast is extra.

Rushdie... you get the idea).

LISA MARKWELL

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Voice arsunt **¥THE INDEPENDENT**

BLACK & GENTLE

Black literature graduate

travel and good lood,

N/S. GSOH, loves the arts.

seeks positive, professional

woman, 28-38, race and

colour unimportant, with or

without children, for possi

ble relationship. 26277

SOUL MATE SEARCH

Tall, attractive, hard-work-

ing male, 25, into antiques

and property renovation.

seeking intelligent female company, for friendship and relationship. #26275

ROPES ENTAGE TO PIECE YOUR FIRST ME AND A CONTROL OF THE PIECE OF THE

ALPHA BETTA CURI CULUM

Araki, bums and eyes, Chekhov, dares, erotic art,

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s, zest for life, how bout

READ THIS CAREFULLY

0890 216 351

ATTRACTIVE ENIGMATIC MALE

☆5995

VERY URGENT

INDEPENDENT ROMANTIC

based 225990

THIS IS NO YOLK...

London male, 33, seeks female, to share left over

Dion, rap music or anyone

temperature need not apply. 226168

sports, art. films, seeks lady, for friendship, and tun. \$5994

GOOD-LOOKING

YOUNG TALL

with an IQ lower than room

Professional male, 35.



CONNECTION
Attractive, slim, independent, professional brunette petite, into the arts, opera, classical music, travel, social science, seeking attractive, successful, gen uine, sensible, professio male, 45-50, for happy relationship, ☎6276 CELTIC LASS

Single Insh temale, travel professional, very down-to-earth, is seeking a tall, dark male, N/S, to enjoy classical music, the great outdoors, and much, much ATTRACTIVE & CLASSY female, 49, 5'6', dark hair, intelligent, interesting, enjoys good food/wine and male company, is seeking a successful, professional male, aged 47-56, who is

strong but gentle. 1276282 LUST FOR LIFE Attractive, artistic, outgoing, fun-loving, profession lady, slim, blonde, interest ed in the arts, good food and wine, dancing, holidays, seeking altractive, sensitive, kind, intelligent, well-educated, professional man, 45-55, to share interests. London. 1276289 FUN-LOVING EX-MODEL Creative, slim lemale, is seeking a fit male, aged 30-40, for romance.

Scotland, \$2666 SEEKS SOUL MATE Attractive, Irvely, Iun, intelli-gent, loving ternale, with many interests, seeks simi-lar man, late 30s-early 40s. for companionship, laughs and loving, long-term relationship. 276 IN SEARCH OF DOBDIN ite, v_ivacious, attractive single mother, early 40s, but girl at heart, well-edu-cated/read/travelled, with an insatiable energy and an insatiable energy optimism, seeking an hon-optimism, seeking an hon-conteman, 40-55,

activities and jaunts in the country. London. ☎6272 SEEKING SCORPIO Slim Dutch lady, 62, enjoys gardening and life, is seek ing a warm, caring and successful gentleman, for a long-lasting relationship. **BROWN-EYED GIRL**

Sensational, black single mum, student, 57°, enjoys fashion shows, dancing cinemas, shopping, night in, travelling back to the Caribbean, seeks honest good-looking, caring, love good-looking, caring, loving guy, 20-33, black/white, for long lasting relationship.

BEWITCHING WOMAN With style and a wicked smile, seeks warm, with isa, renascence man, 40-50, experienced in rescu-50. expenenced in rescu-ing workaholics and admir-ing women who slay their own dragons. Middlesex based. 455992 SEEKING

SOMEONE SPECIAL Caring, genuine, loving lady, 59, 4111, GSOH, N/S. nedium build, enjoys fine dancing, swimming, walking, meeting people, seeks genuine gentleman, 60-65, for triendship, companion-

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CELTIC DREAMING

Fair-skinned, blue ey redhead, 36, medium height, curvaceous, into arts, music, literature yoga, laughter, seeks like-minded man, 32-40. Herts. GREGARIOUS FEMALE... ...31, 5'5", blonde/green, SW London, professional, enjoys cooking, staying in, lennis, holidays, weekends away, seeks male, 30-40, 1all, professional intelli-

BELLE IN BELFAST ntelligent, slim, attractive woman, 28, into cinema arts, travel, keep-fit, seeks for triendship, \$25989 DELICIOUS BRUNETTE... with poise and smoulder, seaks one very fabulous, tall, charismatic, successful

man, 35-45, to work her life out with. 256052 LIVE LIFE TO THE MAX Fun-loving, slightly mad, intelligent, down-to-earth female, 35, 5'9", blonde/ green, enjoys shopping, swimming, squash, seeks male, 35-40, 5'9" and above, with similar interests, for friendship at first. 22 6059

Ady Queries? If you should have any questions about any aspects of our Voice Personals' service, please call FREE on 0800 216 361

CHRISTIAN LADY Single, 33, N/S, medium build, honest, kind-heart loves animals, wildlife. countryside coast, seeks Christian gent, 30-45, fnendship, leading to romance \$26055 HAPPY OPTIMIST

Creative, independent, fair-haired, blue-eyed, fairly fit female, 33, into fun, friends, writing, adventur-ous travel, the arts, seeks like-minded male, 30-40 London based. 25997 ATTRACTIVE & SLIM Brown-eyed female. 40, many arts-based interests, seeks handsome male, 35-45, with GSOH, for friendtionship. Londor area. 1575988

TIRED OF THE SAME OLD SCENE Engaging, warm, vibrant, friendly temals, late 30s, quality and deep into per-sonality, interested in cinema, seeks male, 35-40, for friendship/relationship. London area, 276180 QUIRKY HUMOUR?

tive, vegetarian male.

ADVENTUROUS

romance. #8056

REALLY MATTER?

DOES SIZE

Opportunities for promo-tion. Suffolk. 12:6101

intelligent, good-looking female, brown hair/eyes,

24, 5'4", likes horse riding,

travelling, music, pubs, cinema, seeks male, similar age, 5'4" and above, 24-

Attractive, generously pro-

portioned woman, 40s, with a generous heart to match,

seeks sensitive, affection-ate male, for companion-

Henfordshire, 2:5999

Slim, golden-skinned woman, just back from, Africa, into life's adven-

tures, still clinging perilous-ly to notion, no need to set-tle for less than love,

needs tall, happy, confi-dent, witty, independent, liberal thinker to prove her right, \$6167

Slim and attractive woman, 55. Joanna Lumley type, enjoys good company, has an active klestyle, seeks

solvent, attractive, outgo-

ing. tall male. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Tender Latin female war-

nor, 30, desires charming, caring opponent male glad-iator. 30+. for a genume, amicable duo.

London/South East.

IT COULD BE YOU

HOLDING OUT

FOR LOVE

right. \$167

☎5981

EMOTIONAL

WEAPON

Keen photographer? Would you like to meet similar, in tall, slimmish, grounded. very young, 40-something female? In East Sussex area preferably, \$26155 VEGETARIAN VACANCY Best friend wanted for happy outgoing, profes-sional ledy, 50s, into spiri-tual grow, theatre, films, gardening, good company, would suit intelligent, sensi

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MADRID/BARCELONA female, articulate, with effervescent personality seeks cultured, N/S, slin St Albans, 125884

ALL WOMAN Female, 40, funny and leisty, in Wales, seeks hon-est, reliable and dever man. \$25857 COCK-EYED

Inlelligent, slim and pretty female, in early 40s, into spiritual growth, book-

shops, country walks, after noon tea and champagne, seeks kind, intelligent, sen-shive male, 44-60, who also enjoys cinema, theatre and music, for friendship and romance. Welsh marches. #5759 AMERICAN WANTED...



sea and adventures of the

...that elusive, music-lov-ing, interesting, kindred spirit. Graduate gentleman 57, seeks lady, under 58, to share lifes many pleasures, in a long-term rela-tionship. Bristol. 276280

Gentle

Graduate, n's, geob Lores the arts and travel

es persiture, professio

Race, Colour or Children
NO PROBLEM.

NORTHERN LIGHTS Successful, dynamic, slim professional woman, works hard, plays hard, seeks similar male, 40s-50s, into classical music, fitness. ideas, travel and fun. Glasgow or anywhere. **☎**6025

SEEKING FUN AND FRIENDSHIP Tail and slim. protess woman, mid-30s. indepen dent, lively, creative, seeking a confident and stylish man, for fun days/nights out, friendship, leading to romance. Newcastle area. **2**56049

ATTRACTIVE & INTELLIGENT Genuine, warm, slim, ht. professional, vibrant, blonde temale, 30, N/S, seeks similar male, 6, ath-letic build, hopefully leading to love, happiness and Herts or Bucks area preferred. 23:5854

PARADOXICAL Partner sought by this funny, senous, happy, sad woman, 40+, Someone who shares her understanding of the need to become all that we truly are. Brighton based.

DEEPLY CYNICAL Slim. 5'7", brown-eyed brunette, GSOH, altractive, athletic, 29, enjoys theatre, music, outdoor pursuits and keep-fit, seeks solvent male, 25-40, with similar interests, who can restore her taith in men. Hampshire, 3:6034 FINDING ENJOYMENT

Intelligent, independent Intelligent, independent lady, age unimportant, would enjoy being with fur-ther-educated, intelligent, attractive, tall, sentimental politics master student. aged 24, 6'4". \$5858 INCOVER THE MYSTERY Bright, curvaceous, viva-cious, mischievous, sultry.

dark-eyed Italian lady, 30s, seeks tall, handsome, prolessional male, for long term relationship. 12:6041 LOOKING FOR YOU Fair-haired, petite, attractive female, young 41, suc-cessful career, likes theatre, fitms, travel, seeks London, 226040

Don't Forget!

...50, for slim, blonde, pro-fessional, with two grown sons and green card, who loves the arts, snow and

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MATE FOR LIFE smart, lund, educated. understanding, good-look ing lemale any religion caste, for reliable, trustworthy relationship. 226269

HILL OF BEANS Young-looking Student counsellor aged 34 6'3". easygoing, canng, thought ful and humorous. enjoys films, eating out and relaxan independent, canno lemale, to enjoy life with Newcasile area 116287

MATURE & CHARISMATIC Sporty black male, seeking sophisticated temale, to share romantic pursuits of a special kind 126043

IDEAS TURN ME ON Shy, incurably romantic teacher, 42, seeks tactile, sensual lady, for long-term first takes, girfishness, humour, ideas, joint, kindrelationship. Any area. **276154**

FIRST-TIME ADVERT Black male, 20s. 6'. slim build, outgoing, fun-loving, very romantic, into the arts, dance, modelling, socialising, living life, seeks open-minded, British female, any rece, for senous relationship, maybe more, 256170

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Affectionate, professional male, seeks female, any age, to share life with.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE Cosmopolitan male, 41, 61, slim, fit, likes intellectual challenges and laughter, is seeking a very slim, attractive partner, aged 28-35, who's discerning and ready for adventurous future. South West. 2:6279 TALL AFRICAN-AMERICAN

26281

Male, 31, likes music, sport, travel, seeks independent lady, over 25, to hare fun times, maybe more. 236283 CEREBRAL MALE.

...45, seeking a bookish soul male, with passion, who's into travel, live music and good wine. London area. 226161 CULTURED BLACK MALE Articulate, conscious and caring male, 54, is seeking a temale partner who has similar attributes. 12:6162

DESPERATE Emotionally distorted by previous relationships. Male, 50s, believes in

excerise, into reading, sport, cycling, is seeking a libran, aquanan or gemini female, any age, for friend-ship first, then who knows?

Two carring, charismatic. cancenan males 34/33. 5'107/6', blue and green eyes, brown hair and reasonably handsome, enjoy pubs, cinema, theatre. good food, are seeking two lelligent, attractive, sophisticated ladies under 30. 126271 BATH MALE

Quiet mate, 41, N/S, own flat, slightly disabled, into cinema aviation meals lady up to 45 for friendship, evenings out and maybe more. \$26270

FRANCOPHILE Divorced, aquanan male teacher, young 55, more rich than wealthy, enjoys good conversation, sw ning, chess, pardening, wine, travel, seeks blonde slim lady, 30+. NE or anywhere. 276267 SUNNY OUTLOOK

Teacher, 47, 5'10", Inendly, easygoing nature, finds interest in many aspects of life, would like to share friendship with an attraciligent woman.

226179 TALL WITTY DOCTOR Single male 28, seeks surtable, single woman, similar age, sarcastic and leisty if possible. London, 22:6095

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the telephone! Whether you're a member or a guest you can use the

groups. O'Cub staff ensure that with each visit you'll be introduced first to the newest members. • Our <u>Profile matching system</u> helps find the right people for you. • Update your <u>Personal message profile</u> at any lime. • Check the <u>Club Natice-board</u> to pick up messages and for the latest club news.

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BE SENSIBLE: We suggest that the first meeting always be held to a public place and that you do not reveal your full name, address or home phone number until you are comfortable doing so. BUT WITTY Male library clerk, 33, tailed writer, gentle and witty, undogmatic lettist, likes pubs, walks, cycling, food.

interest you - it's simple. last and easy!

Circle the ads that interest you and call 09859 \$47 142 and follow the simple instructions to hear the advertiser's greating

message or to hear greetings from people who match yo

conversation, seeks compassion, thoughtful, non-materialistic female, for relationship, Ovon London/ North East \$6094 FROM OUT OF NOWHERE... Good-looking, professional male, 31, 510 seeks skin-ny/big build bubbly lamale.

any age/colour. Very large women also most welcome Looks unimportant GSOH essential If you leave a message i promise to get back to you. 226174 NO FURTHER

Affractive, professional, intellectual, self-employed male, 34, no ties, enjoys spons, socialismo seeking sımılar, dynamıc, petile, N/S temale, tor friendship/relationship. Cambridgeshire, 25998 SOUL MATE SEARCH

Attractive architect, 30s, 5'9", dark/green-blue, slim mish, N/S, outgoing, spon taneous, romanic, loves sports, cycling, walks, arts, exhibitions, travel, socialis-ing, seeks creative female, on similar wavelength, for possible semious relation-ethn. Twickenham/neaching

ELOQUENT BUT SOMETIMES... ...narticulate male gradu-ale. 39, 6'2', enjoys con-versation, red wine, films, share interests. Gloucs. **2**5987

PERSONALITY COUNTS Fun, thoughtful sensitive, caring male leacher, 27, seeks kind, caring female. Onental lady most wel-come. London, 276157

Any Queries? If you should have any questor about any aspects of our Voice Personals service pleas

CULTURE VULTURE Artist academic, polyglot, eclectic, unpretentious, left ish, sensitive, non rich, 46, 59°, presentable, seeks younger, warm, cultured, elegant lady. South London/Surrey/North East Ireland \$6100

PLEASE REPLY Tall, dark, handsome, selfemployed businessman. 40. seeks happy, intelligent beautitul girlfriend, 24-32. London, 27:5984

OXFORD Decent chap, 35, tall, own leeth and home, seeks you? 125943



HANDSOME
Good-looking, professional
male, likes music, politics,
nights in/out, seeks friendly, easygoing woman, for fun, friendship and enjoying life. Norwich, 226102 FATHER FIGURE Wise old owl bachelor, 50, gentle but lion-hearted

knight, seeking a young lady, who needs an older father figure. Not rich, but all of me will bonnur and protect you. South. 225982 REGENERATED EX-NEW MAN Boyish, 60, slim, tall, fair, laid back, wants to rediscover excitement of difference with a teminine woman, 55-65, gentle. buxom and curvy, dark/dark, Celtic/Latin,

good looks, N/S. London. 25979 BRISTOL/SOUTH WEST Altractive, kind, intelligent, loyal male, aged 41, non-smoker, is seeking a simi-lar female, for outings, conndship and

lave. 226050 PLEASE REPLY Tall, dark and handsome, self-employed business-man, aged 40, seeking a happy, intelligent, beautiful girlfriend, aged 24-32. London. 255984 UNATTACHED MALE Enjoys sports, fitness, trav-el, desires curvaceous, 50. N/S. Edinburgh based.

HANDSOME AND GENUINE City professional, 6', with life, GSOH, varied interests, seeks attractive, slim, canno female, for friend-ship/ romance. You won't be disappointed, 2:5852 with tarnished armour

Mendip area. 25853

Chat Lines

SINATRA LOVER Witty, intelligent, dark, mas-culine, professional male, aged 33, loves music, countryside, films, sports, seeks slim, attractive, cul-tured but caring lady, without children, who's independent, for a lasting relationship. 25985

ROMANTIC

Tall, slim, intelligent man,

40, enjoys sports, politics,

tive lady, 30-45, to care for. South Wales. \$25986

music, socially aware, GSOH, seeks slim, attrac

Professional guy. 40s, 6'1" dark/brown, athletic, well-built, N/S, GSOH, seeks lady, under 40, N/S, GSOH, for friendship initial CREATIVE MIND Sporty male, 40s, into arts, theatre, painting, and wan-dering around the globe, ly, hopefully lasting love. Landon/surround \$26098 ned wine and laughter. seeks adventurous female to share the less trodden Don't Forget! Place your own Voice Personals' ad FREE or path. 226024

DEREK'S THE NAME Kind, honest, trustworthy, tunny, chivalrous, goodlooking male (or so they say), 40s, 6', slim build, fit, blue eyes, educated. Passions: horses, riding,

30s. seeks intelligent, with woman, to share laughs, wildlife, sailing, skiing, the atre, music and travel, is wine, blues, good times and more. North West. seeking a lemale companion. 25855 GENUINE MALE Single white male, 44, pro-fessional, considerate and Professional male, 36, tall,

dark, caring, with many interests, seeks woman, 25-40, for triendship. honest, lots to offer, many interests: countryside. Oxon/Bucks/N Hants. walking and dancing, seeks genuine lady, for triendship. London area. Ring me now, I'm alone in London and seek plain Jane, 30s, but well-sculp-**☎**6027 THREE COLOURS

Young-looking student counciltor, aged 34, 6'3", tured, to love and care for. easygoing, caring, thoughtful, humorous, enjoys films, yoga, relaxing with friends, seeking independent, car-ing female, to enjoy life with. Newcastle area. enjoys travel, good conver-sation, sports, erts, seeks like-minded, attractive, pro-fessoral female. Bristol BLOSSOMING FUTURE

Tall, slim gentleman, 56, NS, likes the normal things in life, seeking slim lady, NS, who requires romance, sincerity and kindness, with wining and dining. M25 area. 12:6038 IF LIFE IS A JOURNEY... ...then I'm looking for a codriver. Reading-based male, too close to 40 for comion seeks lemale to share life's twists and

turns. 226042 AMERICAN MALE Professional, genuine, cute, serious and funny male, 33, seeks wonderful female friend, for dinner, pubbling and exploring, possibly for romance.

ARE YOU THE ONE? If you are an outgoing, complex person, who wants the best out of life, please call. Must be positive. **25**5983 TALL, DARK GRADUATE Warm, caring male, wide interests arts, theatre, cine ma, pubs, clubs, walking. countryside, mountains, foreign travel, seeks tall, slim, professional, Intelli-

gent woman, 34-46. similar interests, must have VGSOH, 22:5974 STUNNING STONNING: Intelligent, caring and attractive male, 25, sensi-tive, with stamina, seeks stunning blonde, 18-35, for

fun, friendship and enjoy-ing the good life. 256047 ARE YOU OUT THERE? Gentle doctor, aged 60, 5'6", south London, enjoys reading, classical music, traditional jazz, theatre, travel, DIY, people and vin-tage cars, seeks temate graduate, N/S. 125975

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MAKE MY TELEPHONE RING Charming, lunny, romantic solvent, spontaneous, solvent, successful male, 34 with zest for life. Passions. music, eating, shopping, seeking challenging female, 25-35, humour essential, lun guaranteed Oxford/Berks/ Bucks area preferably. 125856

WILL YOU BE MINE? WILL YOU BE INITE:
Very jolly man, early 30s,
59", well-bullt, enjoys
going out, earling out, films,
seeking a buxom/cuddly,
female, large bulld, for
triendship, possibly more,



Graduate, professional, male, 51, likes classical music, historic houses, books, history, the arts, seeks similar male, 40-50, for thiradiship, possible 1-2-1. South Yorks/North Midlands area. 26175 WANTED:

ATTRACTIVE GUY Gay professional male, 25, seeks similar man, 18+, for nights in/out, for fun and iriendsi.ip. Cardiff area.

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Asian male, 23, 5'8", dark/brown, slim, attractive into reading, socialising, theatre, seeks similar man, non-scene, for friendship, possibly more. Wolves/ Staffs. #75993

FUTURE FRIENDSHIP Gay male, 28, handsome, masculine, warm, gentle, into country houses, gar-dening, good food, classi-cal music, seeks pre-sertable mature triend, 404, 1 ordaniame. 40+. London/Home

Counties, 12:5996 LIKE MINDS? LIKE MINDS?
James, late 40s, but could be 10 years younger, sometime actor, now in the exhibition business, enjoys theatre, travel, tennis and cycling, British heritage and architecture, seeking a bright and attractive. bright and attractive, younger man, late 20s-30, with similar Interests. \$6037

WELSH MALE Unpretentious male, aged 28, 5'8", straight-acting, brown hair, blue eyes, into the chema, travel, good food, fitness, countryside, seeking a chunky Welshman, aged 20-35. Oxford, Manchester or anywhere. 12:5977



FUTURE Female, 33, 5'6", slim build, attractive, Swindon based, enjoys going out theatre, cinema, eating socialising, countryside and walks, seeks female, for

hiendship first. 12:6321

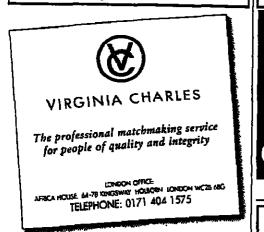


HI, I'M JOHN
Athletic male, mid-30s, seeking couples who are looking for that little bit extra, for healthy, adventurous, fun times together.
Can travel. 12:6278
YOU ARE FEMALE... ...fundamentally unsubmis-sive. 40-50ish, aggressive-ly successful (men find you scary), yet your alter ego screams for influential asures, for creative pleasures, for creative dominant, unpassive, truly genlle man. Midlands. \$6144 FUN, FRIENDSHIP,

PUN, PHIENUSHIP,
PARADISE
Genuine, bisexual male,
early 30s. 5'9", strong
build, very good-looking,
dark brown hair, brown eyes, enjoys watching the news, good movies, eating oul, is seeking couples or oul, is seeking couples or singles, any size, very skin-ny or very plump, for good fun times, 12:6044

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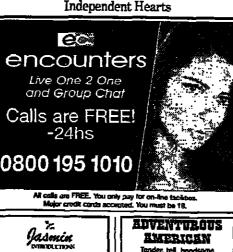
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couple of months and have been keeping in touch with people via e-mail. Now I find that everything I've been telling people has been making the rounds by e-mail to everyone else. I recently had an encounter in Amsterdam, told one friend and. within 48 hours, another friend only distantly connected with the person I told started teasing me about it. Do people treat e-mail as some sort of open noticeboard system? Do I have to keep everything to myself now I'm no longer living near my friends and, if so, how am I going to cope without

I've been out of the country for a

S, Luxemburg

E-mail is like any other communication system: if you want something not to be passed on, you have to ensure a) that you tell someone who can keep their counsel and b) make it very clear that the information is a secret between you and them. And even then, you have to accept that in sharing details of your

people to confide in?

private life you are running a risk of it no longer being a private matter. Always remember: the only real secret is the one you keep to yourself.

Dear Serena. Can you suggest a gift for a secretary that is both personal and won't give rise to misunderstanding?

M, Chancery Lane

Depends on how much you're prepared to pay. Female bosses can give male secretaries flowers, but this doesn't work so well in male-to-female (too cliched), female-to-female (unimaginative) or male-to-male (implications of cissyness) situations. Ninety per cent of women are always pleased with new shoes, but this choice is loaded with meaning. Monogrammed executive briefcases/desk sets/anything else can be interpreted as put-downs. Dinner for two (not to include yourself) at a swish restaurant? Dangerous, as you might get landed with a bill for a bottle of Chateau d'Ygem 1896. The safest bet is a flight voucher from a

reputable airline, which works as a double whammy: thanks for a job well done, and tacit encouragement to take time off.

Dear Serena. My husband, to whom I have been married for four years, likes to sunbathe nude in our garden (which is quite private). He also. throughout the year, tends to wear nothing from when he gets up until when we go to bed, and likes to shave his body hair, or have me shave it, which I do. I can't say I dislike his behaviour. He's an exciting lover and we both really enjoy our sex life. But I do have some concern that, as we get older, he may seek someone

his sexual delights. We are much in love. Should I be worried?

CSP, Derbyshire

You don't have a problem at

all, do you, C? You just want to show off to all the poor folk who aren't having as much fun as you are. One thing does worry me, though. It can get a bit parky in Derbyshire in the winter, and body hair does help to provide a little insulation. Do encourage your husband to take care in the early months of the year, or you might find that a nasty dose of

frostbite puts an end to your frolics in an untimely fashion.

Dear Serena. How do you let someone know that their nasal hair has got out of hand, as it were? Paula, Retford

the solid, acquisitive sign of tax plans, household

accounts and deferred gratification. It's the sign of

bank managers (Jacob and Guy de Rothschild). In

the Taurean soul it's always Sunday afternoon

found Tony Hancock funny.

three hours before the pubs open. Only Taureans

The monotonous certainty which you bring to

politicians you've never heard of are Taureans, and

much of Britain's post-war decline can be ascribed

interest of this wretched sign. But some ambitious

Taureans do add texture to their lives by involving

themselves in totalitarian government. They know

the pit of the bourgeois heart and can tap its latent

Lenin, Hitler, Lucrezia Borgia, Lonnie Donegan).

memorably (Jayne Mansfield, the topless actress).

your views means that you do well in politics, but

not very well. Your chief talent is loyalty. All the

to the conservative sloth and implacable self-

rage to wreak monstrous horror (Karl Marx,

Finally, their most significant talent is to die

younger with whom to enjoy a) Buy them one of those sideburnshaping razors that comes with a nosehair clipper and hope they take the hint. More fun is b): offer them a cigarette and let the lighter slip so it singes the offending follicles. At least that will get

rid of them for a while.

Dear Serena. I've broken my finger. How soon will I be able to type again? "Wills", Slough

Don't be silly. Get your personal private secretary to do the typing. That's what

he's there for. Dear Serena.

My daughter's godparents have all

vanished into the ether. She is seven. Can I appoint another lot, who might be more reliable?

No. Disappearing godparents, like hamsters dying and Boyzone, are part of a child's education in the harsh realities of the world. Perhaps you

should also take this as a lesson in choosing friends/godparents for their loyalty rather than their potential usefulness in the future. It you're worried that she doesn't get enough presents, shift yourself and have birthday parties instead.

Dear Serena I had my last lover's name tattooed on my left buttock, and every time my current lover sees it, he goes into a blue funk and seems to lose the will to live. I can't afford laser removal.

Sheena, Stockwell

Get another, larger, tattoo in a solid colour over the top. It will hurt like buggery, but it's either that or making love with the lights off for the rest of your life.

Gordon, Sunderland Knotty problems with the world today? Write to Dear Serena. The Independent, 18th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL. where they will be treated with the customary sympathy



ARIES

IT'S DANGEROUS to frustrate Aries. You're as quick as crocodiles and just as snappy, but now that Mars is in opposition with Saturn you will be the author of many well-structured, fast-paced, tightly packed misfortunes, all of which will happen to you. Your attempts to impress your personality on the situation are not wellfavoured, resulting in freely-flowing resentment. Injuries to your backward parts may result, especially as you leave. Beauty is important.



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TAURUS

THIS WEEK you pop the clutch on your sex drive. Either the engine stalls, or falls to bits, or you race off fast, fraught and furious. Your performance will be unforgettable except by a process of very expensive analysis. The intensity of the Venus-Pluto opposition is genuinely shocking. You'll be like a bull trying to buy a china shop. Passion will run both deep and high, and may involve money (that can be a fatal association, so do be careful).



GEMINI

HAVE YOU ever seen a beehive hit the ground? That's what your brain will look like when Uranus goes square with Mercury, thoughts buzzing off in every direction. Your originality will increase so much you won't know what you think about anything. Conceit, tactlessness and perversity will spoil everything until suddenly a benign trine with Neptune brings out the best in you. A gentle orderliness evolves out of confusion. You will enjoy ESP (so don't look back).



CANCER

THAT YOU have better ankles than the rest of the zodiac does not absolve you from all moral responsibility. Your secret admirer, prowling your perimeter fence, is hungering for you, and this distant passion is becoming part of your character. The temptation is to meet discreetly to exchange kisses through the fence but this is dangerous - you can more than kiss through chain-link. This passion should frighten you (ever seen a waste disposal work from the inside?).



LEO

welterweights (especially the women). Taurus is

o we move into Taurus, the scariest of

disproportionately the sign of aristocrats

(Dukes Wellington and Ellington). The

Oueen's soul has chosen this incarnation

signs (Barbra Streisand). It's also

to demonstrate there is no security in the flux of

material passions. Bound by possessions to the

wheel of life, Taurean souls struggle to release themselves from the agonising hallucinations of

property and position in the world. Her Maiesty

Hirohito. Juliana of the Netherlands has done so

There is something rather awful about Taurus -

still has some work to do, as has the Emperor

well she'll be graduating into Gemini. Denis

the car coats you wear for your Sunday drive

around the common. You are usually union

officials, horse trainers, and unsuccessful

Thatcher will be relegated back to Aries.

reality, and to experience the hollowness of

FOR TOO long you've been surrounded by dirty British coasters; now you should look for stately Spanish galleons. You are the undeserving beneficiary of a burst of energy which allows you to recreate your image (by recreating yourself). There will be an equally powerful reaction to this creative feat: two days of confinement where you temper your new self to make it durable. Finally, in a climactic debut, you can release your self on the world with reckless self-confidence.



VIRGO

A SQUARISH aspect with Uranus brings out the worst in Virgo - you are fractious, captious and impossible to know. You jump to conclusions and fall flat on your friends. But then (these things are so predictable) you go sextile with Neptune. the waters clear, and a pattern emerges to make sense of the wretched jetsam that surrounds your mooring. The clarity with which you see reality has a hallucinogenic quality but your insights will be real and powerful.



POPPY FOLLY

YOUR STARS: IT COULD HAPPEN

LIBRA

IT'S NOT like you to feel so much, you may be tempted to think you've gone a little mad. Your unconscious goes off like Mount St Helens and many unsuitable sightseers come to watch. Your capacity for getting naked may be financially rewarding, but be careful - strangers carry knives. If you concentrate, you can summon a form of sex magic to bend others to your will. But you have to know what you want and that's not as easy as it sounds.



SCORPIO

A RED-hot opposition with Saturn and Venus produces the perfect astrological environment for aggression, violence, resentment and oppression (now that's what you call romance). Unfortunately, you may be the victim where you once were master. Only afflicted Scorpions will find satisfaction in this. Someone above you tif there is anyone; will take an active pleasure in frustrating you - but so twisted so bitter are your ambitions, that they may be doing you a favour.



SAGITTARIUS

NEW BEGINNINGS are indicated, and new manners (that'll be a relief to your loved ones). However, you may not benefit as much as you might because you can't leave your encumbrances behind. Loyalty is admirable, but when it comes to the Old Pals Act, you drafted the stupidest clauses. An interest in new religions is possible, and this, along with your affection for strangers, means you'll need a drag anchor to stop you making a complete fool of yourself.



CAPRICORN

THIS RUN of appalling planetary aspects can't be random; you are being prepared for a great task, and Saturn's opposition to Mars tempers your mettle in the most demanding way. Remember your yawning inadequacies are not obvious to everyone (people aren't that interested, to be frank) so you don't need to go through your operatic cover-up performance. Your superiors are feeling unusually malevolent towards you, so your paranoia will be usefully employed.



AQUARIUS

TREAT YOUR new relationship with a little more diffident respect. Aquarians (particularly the women) approach relationships like property developers buying dilapidated buildings: the improvements raise the value, but they don't make you popular. A nervous irritability will blight your affairs this week. Your quickness of mind is no help, it just causes arguments (you'll only be fluking right answers). Quarrels can be resolved only by swallowing the bitterest pills of apology.



PISCES

WHEN MERCURY is sextile with Neptune, Pisces is happier than a pig in a puddle. Your intuitive exercises will be effortless, with magical results. You might even trust that telepathic thing you think you have. Secret affairs will prosper and be life-affirming. Artists, photographers and writers will have a good second half to the week, as will generals - military strategy benefits from an unconscious identification with the enemy. Politicians will not be so well favoured.

CLASSIC CARTOONS

MARTIN PLIMMER ON PETER ARNO AND HAROLD ROSS



HAROLD ROSS, founder and editor of The New Yorker, has been described as oblique, demanding, unpolished, explosive and profane, yet you can't help feeling that his objection to this cartoon, submitted by Peter Arno in 1943, was an accurate reflection of the view of the man in the street. Arno's Man in the Shower required a suspension of logic that

level got so high? Why didn't the man float to the top? Why didn't he open the door? Ross put these objections to Arno before eventually grumblingly publishing the cartoon. Ross was seen as a reactionary old curmudgeon by contributors. "When the revolution comes," said Dorothy Parker, "it will be everyone against Ross." Yet it was Ross who recognised their talent, who published them cartoonists had not hitherto and who thereby changed the culture of America. demanded. How had the water

THE OFFSIDE ruling that led to the replay of the Manchester vs Arsenal match underlined what I wrote in this column last year calling for more objective refereeing. Then again, impeccable refereeing would have robbed us of a replay to remember: goals of great beauty from Beckham and Giggs, and a great last-minute penalty saved by Schmeichel. My second father, a

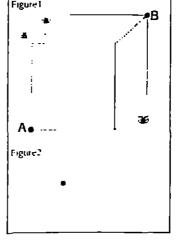
philosopher, is immune to the

charms of soccer. I once explained to him the offside rule with jam-jars (players) and bread bin (goal). I thought I'd done quite well. Then he disabused me: "And just how many teams are there on the pitch at any one time?" Lately he has had other problems. He has been tormented for days by a bluebottle buzzing around the flat. At the end of his wits, he had smeared the table-top with iam and retired to another room to wait. Presumably he had imagined that on his return he would find the interloper glued by its feet to the table-top, or at least drawn swattably close to it. Instead, he returned to find that the violator of his air space had vanished. A definite irritation had now been replaced by an indefinite one. There was now a fly he couldn't see. "Should 1 have used more jam?" he asked. Nato is asking a similar

question as the war drags on.

Spending money as if there's no taxpayer, we fiddle with bridges send in troops except by





while Kosovo burns and Bill, finding Milosevic is harder to bring to his knees than Monica, is applying to Congress for more funds. More jam on the table. Our flustery Defence Minister snapped back at probing by Paxman on Newsnight this week that Nato doesn't have recourse to psychoanalysts. That's a pity, for the Alliance understands neither itself nor psychopaths. It speaks of Milosevic as if he shared our values. We will not

invitation, they perseverate. ("Please come into Kosovo: I don't seem to be able to stop myself ethnic-cleansing." Milosevic is rational but bent on evil, whereas we are wellmeaning but irrational. We want to save the Kosovans but do not wish to risk troops. Hence the air support in support of nothing to support. There are no cracks in Nato, just cracks in its view of reality. Perseveration and fixation are, after all. features of collective delusion. Perhaps couchwork could have exorcised this grand denial, saved more Kosovans and saved us billions

Solutions to last week's problems 1 The ratio of sexes remains unchanged. 2 10 different cubes. 3 PROBLEMATICAL.

into the bargain. Meanwhile. pass the jam, Monica.

Points to ponder 1 A lazy fly wishes to go from A

to B. What is her shortest route across the surface of the cube (fig 1)?

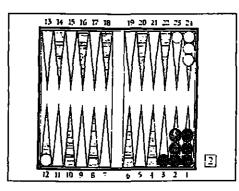
2 Show that no matter where a tiny fly is on the surface of the jam lake shown, there is always a pair of points on its edge such that she is midway between them (fig 2). 3 Find a single-word anagram of

TIME FLIES. Comments to: indyig

puzzlemaster.co.uk

BACKGAMMON

CHRIS BRAY



THIS SORT of problem occurs quite frequently. Black has hit a late shot, contained white's blot and borne off some men. White has now re-entered and is heading for home as quickly as possible. Should black redouble? Should white take?

To analyse these positions. see how many rolls each side will take to complete the bearoff. Black's position is easy: if he doesn't roll a double he will be off in four rolls.

And white? First he has to get the man on his mid-point home. The average backgammon roll is 8.16 pips. For practical purposes we can use 8 pips. So we can assume that on his first roll, white will move his blot to his own 5point. Then he will have five men to bear off and, again

assuming no doubles, we can estimate he will be off in three more rolls.

Thus we have a four-roll vs four-roll situation. We know that four vs four is double/ take. So that's the answer here too, right? Wrong; in a true four vs four we assume that neither side can miss. In this position, small numbers for white on his first roll are ruinous. Look at the difference between the two sides when 11 is the first roll.

The difference is enough to turn what looks like a take into a very clear drop. In fact white's winning chances in this position are just 14 per cent. When confronted by positions like this, analyse them thoroughly or you could deplete your bank balance!

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WEEKEN REVIEW

IELEVISION & RADIO

BBC1

6.50 Match of the Day (9477166), 8.00 Breakfast with Frost (7507760), 8.45 The London Marathon (55736876). 11.50 The Heaven and Earth Show (2655215). 12.35 The London Marathon (9730370), 1.25 News (93442302). 1.30 EastEnders (R) (S) (T) (9627418).

2.55 TIM Innerspace (Jee Dante 1987 US). A miniaturised Dennis Quaid ends up in the body of a hypochondriac (66958019).

4.45 Junior Masterchef (S) (585760). 5.15 News; Weather (5380031), 5.30 Regional News; Weather (470760).

5.40 Songs of Praise. Pam Rhodes visits Bath (S) (T) (292514).

6.15 Wildlife on One. Can the interests of Asian elephants and people be reconciled? (S) (T) (573925).

6.45 Auntie's Animal Bloomers (R) (S) (572296).

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7:15 The Great Antiques Hunt. Jilly Goolden and teams are in Manchester to date 20th-century collectables, value books, and identify porcelain at nearby Tatton Park in Cheshire (S) (T) (153128).

8.00 Last of the Summer Wine. A new series (S) (T) (9186).

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Return of the time-travelling sitcom starring Nicholas Lyndhurst (S) (T) (9673).

9.00 Ambassador. Drama series starring Pauline Collins as the British ambassador to Ireland. A break-in at the Residence reveals she has a dangerous enemy within her own circle (S) (303383).

9.50 News; Weather (T) (952321).

10-05 The Vicar of Dibley. It's the Dibley autumn fayre (R) (S) (858166).

10.35 CHOICE Here, There and **Everywhere - A Concert for** Linda. A special charity tribute concert organised by Chrissie Hynde in memory of the late Linda McCartney. See Concert of the Day. below (S) (1285012). 12.05 Harbour Lights (S) (T) (9712155).

1.00 Snooker. Highlights of the day's play from Sheffield (Then Weather) (S) (39451).

2.00 Joins BBC News 24 (2830068).

BBC2

8.55 Children's BBC: Follow That Goblin (9083079). 9.25 Gadget Boy (7890031). 9.55 The Wayne Manifesto (S) (7824031). 10.20 Sweet Valley High (R) (S) (1483302).

10.40 Dragonworld - The Legend Continues (Ted Nicolaou 1997 US). Kiddie fantasy (S)

12.00 The O Zone (7646876), 12.15 Lee and Herring's This Morning with Richard, Not Judy (3860499). 1.00 Around Westminster (24418). 1.30 Grandstand (13852012), 1.35 Motorcycling (16058586). 2.00 Snooker (83590128). 4.45 Rugby (8506166).

5.30 Snooker. Continuing first-round coverage of the Embassy World Snooker Championship, Commentary by Clive Everton, Ray Edmonds, John Virgo and Dennis Taylor (7202708).

6.40 The London Marathon. Highlights of today's race from Greenwich to the Mall (S) (280586).

7.30 The Money Programme. News stories from the world of business

and work (S) (T) (147).

8.00 Cold War. "Spies 1945-89". The history of Cold War espionage, when giant institutions (KGB, FBI, MI6, and the Stasi, among others) flourished (S) (T) (884012).

8.50 World Snooker Championship. David Vine introduces further coverage of the first round from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. Commentary by Clive Everton, Ray Edmonds, Dennis Taylor, John Virgo, Willie Thome and Jim Meadowcroft (S) (5694296).

10.00 Have I Got News for You. From Friday, with Countdown's Richard Whiteley guesting (R) (S) (T) (60321).

10.30 CHOIGE Clockers (Spike Lee 1995 US). Harvey Keitel is the cop investigating black drug dealers in Lee's crime thriller. See Film of the Day, below (S) (T) (90798760).

12.35 Gang Busters (Bill Karn 1955 US). Documentary style prison drama (9237155)

2.00 BBC Learning Zone: Further Education: Artists Talking/Design Solutions (68432). 4.00 Languages:

ITV LWT

6.00 GMTV (11963). 8.00 Diggit (3435760). 9.25 Hey Amold! (R) (S) (T) (7803505). 9.50 Aramal Ark (8540031). 10.20 Oggy and the Cockroaches (7106708), 10.30 Sunday Morning (65465), 11.30 Crosstalk (3470). 12.00 That's Esther (90627), 1.00 ITV News; Weather (38028963), 1:10 Jonathan Dimbleby (S) (T) (2188789). 2.00 Munder, She Wrote (S) (8600147).

2.55 The Wooden Horse iJack Lee 1950 UK), Leo Genn and David Tommson lead the escape from Stalag Luft III (74839692).

4.55 Big Screen (S) (T) (3911505). 5.25 London Weekend Tonight (7920532)

5.45 Chef School. Repeat docu-soap about London's Le Cordon Bleu Cockery Academy (R) (576012).

6.15 ITV News; Weather (823079).

6.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of Music. Barrymore hosts the entertamment show in which competitors get the chance to perform - as well as parade their musical knowledge (S) (T) (65857).

7.30 Coronation Street. Mike is disappointed when Julia cuts their weekend short (S) (T) (673).

8.00 Where the Heart Is. Return of the popular drama series starring Pam Ferris and Sarah Lancashire as community nurses. Ruth (Lancashire) discovers she is pregnant (S) (T) (7925).

9.30 Bad Blood. First in a three-part drama by Tony Marchant, whose excellent Great Expectations adaptation screened last week. Alex Jernings plays an infertile heart surgeon who, with his wife (Lia Williams), decides to adopt a Romanian orphan (S) (T) (7789).

10.00 My Wonderful Life. Return of the sitcom starring Emma Wray (64147).

10.30 iTV News; Weather (343505).

10.45 CiDOE Two Thousand Years. Melvyn Bragg presents a new series charting the history of Christianity. See Documentary of the Day, below (T) (442337).

11.45 Still in Bed with MeDinner (S) (212673), 12.20 Film: The Deadly Companions (856513), 2.00 Club@vision (7848548). 2.45 Jonathan Dimbleby (4228890). 3.30 Cybernet (R) (S) (9424906).

Channel 4

6.15 Animal Alphabet (3539316). 6.20 The Magic Roundabout (4189055). 6.25 Ivor the Engine (5539596). 6.30 The Clangers (R) (9595692). 6.40 Bagpuss (7100470). 7.00 Salty's Lighthouse (10215), 7.30 Bug Alerti (8868321), 7.55 Insektors (8109234). 8.15 Saved by the Bell - The New Class (4248296). 8.40 Saved by the Bell - The New Class (9072963). 9.10 Catdog (T) (8140437). 9.45 Planet Pop (7209895). 10.00 The Waltons (R) (T) (28234), 11.00 Hollyoaks (T) (1314876). 12.10 Dawson's Creek (T) (1925741). **1.10** The Real World (2070437). 1.45 Brussels - Behind Closed Doors (124708). 2.45 Football Italia (80057963).

5.05 FILM Waterloo (Sergei Bondarchuk 1971 It/USSR). Epic reconstruction, with scenery-chewing Rod Steiger perfect for the role of Napoleon. Christopher Plummer seems rather muted in comparison as the Iron Duke. With Orson Welles as Louis XVIII, and a cast of thousands of Soviet army extras (T)

7.30 Civil War - England's Fight for Liberty. Historical documentary narrated by Jeremy Hardy about the events of 1649, when Charles I was executed, the House of Lords abolished, and the country became a republic. The events are relayed with dramatic reconstructions and techniques used by today's news and current affairs programmes (13578).

9.00 Crash. Another chance to see this series documenting the history of road safety, starting with how, in 1956, a seatbelt campaign in the US was scrapped because of pressure from hugely influential car-manufacturers (R) (8031).

10.00 Posse (Mario Van Peebles 1993 US). Mario Van Peebles leads a black posse being hunted by biggted colonel Bill Zane in this western. Co-starring Stephen Baldwin, Blair Underwood and Pam Grier (T) (58458316).

12.05 The 11 O'Clock Show (1) (7210819). 12.40 4 Later: Babylon 5 (S) (T) (6338242). 1.40 American Gothic (R) (2092161). 2.35 For the Love of (R) (S) (9711161).

3.30 The Story of Qui Ju (Zhang Yimou 1992 Ch). A peasant woman fights for justice in rural China

Channel 5

6.00 Beastly Britain (6671586), 6.30 Hot Property (4854708). 7.00 Dappledown Farm (R) (2551437). 7.30 Milkshakel (2349895). 7.35 Wimzie's House (3805215), 8.07 From Jesus to Christ (8375050), 9.00 Stickln Around (8566692). 9.30 Sister Sald (4384811). 10.00 Mirror, Mirror (4838760). 10.30 Mirror, Mirror (8562876). 11.00 USA High (1775741). 11.30 Singled Out (1776470). 12.00 Behind the Music -Biondie (2897505). 12.55 Anything's Possible (68687437). 1.10 5 News (17738483). 1.20 Frostrup on Sunday (31779302). **1.50** The Movie Chart Show (36659857). 2.20 Exclusive (70146012). 2.35 Family Affairs Omnibus (46184302). 4.50 100 Per Cent (35358505).

5.20 The Moonspinners (James Neilsen 1964 US). Disney film about a young girl (Haytey Mills) who finds romance and intrigue when she takes a holiday on the laland of Crets. Joan Greenwood lends adult support (1) (89749470).

7.30 5 News and Sport (S) (T)

8.00 Blonde Ambition. Documentary investigating whether blondes have more run than brunettes. Two blondes and two brunettes have their hair-colour altered and are sent out ... with hidden cameras to discover if the saying is true (9049708).

9.00 Film Fatherland (Christopher Menaul 1994 US). Made-for-cable adaptation of Robert Harris's best-selling "what if?" thriller, which supposes that Hitler won the Second World War. Twenty years after Germany's victory, a German cop and an American journalist (Rutger Hauer and Miranda Richardson) team up in a race against time to expose the horrifying secret of the Holocaust as President Joseph P Kennedy prepares to restore diplomatic relations between the US and Germany (T) (9042895).

11.00 Morwenna Banks Blonde Special (1790050).

11.30 Swindon Superbabes (8862225). 12.20 Live and Dangerous Major League Baseball (S) (48095971). 4.40 You Again? (R) (94160068). 5.05 Move On Up (R) (60922857). 5.30 Dragon's Tale (6565971).

ITV/Regions

Anglia
As LWT except: 11.30 Anglia
News Sunday Supplement (3470).
2.00 Hope and Gloria (5470). 2.30
Murder, She Wrote (7403050). 3.25
The Making of Aida (5651657). 3.55
Firm: That Dern Cati (1623674).
6.05 Anglia News (803215). 11.45
Shark Pod (134811). 12.45 Shii in
Bed with MeDinner (87905). 1.15
Film: The Tower (760258). 2.50 8ed with MeUmner (8/3/16), 135 Film: The Tower (760258), 2.50 ClubaVision (4225703), 3.35 Jonethan Dimbleby (2/38906), 4.20 Cybernet (30896172), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (25922616), 5.00 Coronation Street (2509).

Çentral Central
As LWT except: 11.30 Lifeline
(1996227). 11.35 Newsweek
(487246). 11.35 Newsweek
(487246). 11.35 Central News and
Wastiner (5784334). 2.00 its Your
Shout (124012). 2.35 Murder, She
Wrote (6059234). 3.25 Film: In Like
First (12051012). 5.25 Animal SOS
(2103470). 5.55 Lifeline (195706).
6.00 Central News and Sport
(895296). 3.30 Cybernet (52890).
4.00 Jobfinder (61161).

4.00 Jobfinder (8161).

HTV Wales
As LWT except: 10.30 Sunday
Morning (6204499). 11.25.
Waterfront (9857079). 11.55 HTV
News and Weather (5794334). 2.00
The Front Row (16743302). 4.40
FIA European Drag Racing
Championships (4548988). 5.40
Soccer Sunday (232437). 6.10 HTV
News and Weather (423128). 11.45
Shark Pod (134811). 12.45 Still in
Bed with MeDirner (67906). 1.15 4.00 Jobfinder (81161). Shark Pod (134811). 12.45 Shill in.
Bed with MeDirner (87906). 1.15
Film: The Tower (760258). 2.50.
ClubaVision (4225703). 3.32
Jonathan Dirnbleby (2758906).
4.20 Cybernet (30896172). 4.45
ITV Nightscreen (25922616). 5.00
Coronation Street (25109).
HTV West
As HTV Wales except: 11.25

As HTV Wales except: 11.25 Hope and Gloria (9857079), 2.00 Film: A Man for Al Seasons (75303673), 4.40 Drag Racing (9923012), 5.40 All Gardens Great and Small (3495860), 5.40 West Match Dire (292495) Match Plus (232437).

Meridian Meridian
As LWT except: 11.30 7 Days
(4873147). 11.50 Meridian News
(7606055). 2.00 Getaways (5470).
2.30 Cartoon (5580234). 2.45
Murder, She Wrote (6039470). 3.40
Film: The Magic Box (18231296).
5.45 Tonight (576012). 11.45 Shark
Pod (134811). 12.45 - 4.45 As
Angia. 5.00 Freescreen (25109).
Microto Caustry

Angia. 5.00 Prescreen (25109).

Westcountry
As LWT except: 9.50 Animal
Ank (7325760). 10.00 Westcountry
Update (78741). 11.30 Westcountry
Witness (5470). 2.00 Westcountry
Witness (5470). 2.30 Murder, She
Wrote (7403050). 3.25 Film: Kim
(22547514). 5.30 To Be Announced (2254/5/4) 5.30 to 86 Artiourise (296) 6,00 Westcountry Goals Extra (427944) 6.05 Westcountry News (803215), 11.45 Shark Pod (134811), 12.45 - 5.00 As Angša. Yorkshire

YOFKShire
As LWT except: 11.30 Around
the House (3470), 2.00 Calendar.
News (99510708), 2.05 Speed
Crash! Rescuel (89700944), 2.35
Film: The Wooden Horse*
(74835876), 4.30 Coronation Street
(84321), 5.30 Calendar News
(128895), 5.45 Goals (576012),
12.20 Cybernet (8728635), 12.50
Film: Aaina (90780093), 4.20
Inhfinder (9514435) Tyne Tees

As Yorkshire except: 12.00 That's Esther (63418). 12.30 Newsweek (81302). 2.00 North East News and Weather (899)(0708). 5.30 North East News and Sport (128895). 5.45 Cafe Sport (576012). S4C

S4C
As Channel 4 except: 11.00
Hollyoaks (69735166), 12.00
Uchaftwyntiau Uned 5 (84821741),
12.35 Gol (57429876), 1.20
Flarmio (17522654), 1.50 Dawson's Creek (40823741), 2.40 Brookside (94217079), 4.05 Wild Tales (55534586), 5.00 Newyddion (41048215), 5.05 Maniffesto (78064925), 5.35 Pobol y Cwm (73060835), 7.30 Bottym 4 (99105128), 8.00 Dectros 4 (99105128). **8.00** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Cannol (41575296). **8.30** Decrial Carmol (41575296), 8.30 Licyris Oisorts (89787741), 9.05 lechyd Da (33548234), 9.50 Newyddion (56419760), 10.20 Film: TPosse (55054401), 12.05 Civil War - Englands Fight for Liberty (37189635), 1.35 Shanghai Vice (83756364), 2.35 Close.

CONCERT OF THE DAY

HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE - A CONCERT FOR LINDA (10.35pm BBC1) The stars are out for Macca's missus, as Linda McCartney (right) is remembered in this concert featuring George Michael, the Pretenders. Sinead O'Connor (who allegedly misbehaved herself), Tom Jones, Marianne Faithfull and Elvis Costello. Pulling everything together is host Eddie Izzard

Radio 1 (976-998MHz FM) 6.30 Kevin Greening. 10.00 Mark Goodier.

1.00 Jamie Theakston

3.00 Top of the Pops. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40. 7.00 Radio 1's Dance Anthems with

Dave Pearce. 10.00 Travor Nelson. 12.00 Emma B. 4.00 - 6.30

(88-902MHz FM)
7.00 Don Maclean. 9.05
Steve Wright. 11.00
Parkinson's Sunday
Supplement. 1.00
Desmond Carrington.
3.00 Russell Davies.
4.00 Fred Astaire: Step
by Step. 4.30 Sing
Something Simple. 5.00
Pam Ayres. 7.00 Hugh
Scully. 8.30 Sunday Half
Hour. 9.00 Alan Keith.
40.00 Malcolm I. execute.

10.00 Malcolm Laycock.

11.00 The David Jacobs Colection 12.00 Katrina Leskanich 3.00 - 4.00

9.00 Brian Kay's Sunday

Morning. 11.00 Artist of the Week

Radio 3

(902-924MHz FM)

Encore. 12.15 Music Matters.

1.00 The Radio 3

10.00 Choir Works. My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord'. Brian Kay

Radio 2 (88-90,2MHz FM)



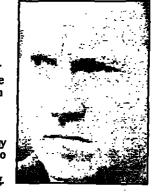
DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

TWO THOUSAND YEARS (10.45pm iTV) Melvyn Bragg (right), in the same slot as his increasingly marginal South Bank Show, presents this ambitious new series charting 2,000 years of Christianity. The series begins with a look at how the fledgling religion was created. with contributions from Archbishop Robert Eames, writer Gore Vidal and Karen Armstrong.



FILM OF THE DAY

CLOCKERS (10.30pm BBC2) Mekhi Phifer gives a mesmerising performance as the leader of a gang of street drug dealers in Spike Lee's sombre take on black gun culture. Originally a project for Martin Scorsese and Robert De Niro (who decided to make Casino instead), Harvey Keitel (right) plays the narcotics cop who suspects his homicide colleagues have arrested the wrong man in a gang killing.



SATELLITE & CABLE

RADIO Special.
5.40 A Mathematician
Reads the Newspapers.
5.54 Shipping Forecast.
5.57 Weather.

introduces a selection of settings of the Magnificat. Mary's joyous reaction to the news that she is to become the Mother of God. Bach: Magnificat in D. BWV243. Soloists, RIAS Chamber Chor. CPE Bach Chamber Chor. CPE Bach Chamber Chor. Finzi: Magnificat. Choir of King's College, Cambridge, Stephen Cleobury, Vivaldi: Magnificat in G minor, RV610a. Soloists, Choir and Orchestra of the King's Consort/Robert Kings Consort/Robert King, Paul Patterson: Magnificat. Bach Choir, Wallace Collection/David Willcocks. WECOCKS. 11.30 Oxbridge Organs 12.05 BBC Symphony Orchestra. 100 - 6.00 Through the Night

Radio 4 (924-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Something Understood. 6.35 On Your Farm. 6.57 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Sunday Papers. 7:10 Sunday. 7:55 Radio 4 Appeal. 8.00 News. 8.05 Sunday Papers. 8.07 Sunday Worship. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 News; Broadcasting House. 10.00 The Archers.

4.00 News; Open Book, 4.20 Adventures in Foetry. 5.00 News; File on 4

Lunchtime Concert. 2.45 Gioriaus John. 4.00 100 Great Singers. 4.15 Centurions. 4.30 The Year. 5.45 Sunday Feature: Viewing the Century -Michael Frayn. 6.30 Private Passions. 11.15 Desert island Discs. 12.00 News; Quote, Unquote. 7.30 Sunday Play: The 12.30 Sentimental Journey. 12.58 Weather. Invention of Love By Tom Stoppard. A radio presentation of the acclaimed Royal National 1.00 The World This Weekend 130 All the Rage. Theatre production by Richard Eyre. With John Wood as A E Housman. 2.00 News; Gardener's Question Time. 2.30 Marguerite Patterns Century of British Cooking. 3.00 News; young Housman. With David Ryall, Robert Por-tal, Adam Barker and Kris Marshall Music by Dominic Muldowney. Classic Serial: Villette.

5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.15 Pick of the Week.
7.00 News: The Archers.
7.15 Copy Snatchers.
Guests from around the world observe, parody and dissect topical British stories from foreign perspectives Presented by David Aaronovitch. 8.00 News; Feedback. Roger Bolton presents the programme which represents listeners' views about BBC radio. 8.30 Nice Work Alison Mitchell presents the series that helps you find new work opportunities and explores the issues that change and shape your working life. 9.00 News; Consequences: the Common Market Referendum, Jonathan Freedland looks back at political or social turning points in the past 50 years. The 1975 referendum on the

Common Market 1975 was intended to settle the European question, but the same arguments are still being heard today. (R) 9.30 Analysis. 'Race to Do Better: the Debate'. Zeinab Badawi chairs a special edition of the programme before an invited audience, examining the issues arising from Ferdinand Dennis's examination of institutional racism. 10.00 News; The Westminster Hour. Carolyn Quinn with politi-cal news, including the election campaigns in Scotland, live from West-

minster, including 10.45 Class Act: in the second

of three programmes, Prof David Cannadine

attitude to class.

11.00 News: A Good
Read. Sarah LeFanu and guests rock climber Jim Perm and writer Manna Warner discuss three favourite paperbacks. 11.30 Something 12.00 News. 12.15 Experimental Feature: By the Rivers of

Thatcher's ambivalence

Feature: By the Rivers of Babylon.

12.30 The Late Story: My Last Brassiere. (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.40 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. Today. Radio 4 LW

12-00 - 12-04 News Headines; Shipping Forecast. 8.00 - 10.00 Open University. Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6-00 Brief Lives. 6.30 Breakfast with Andrew Neil 8.30 The London 12.00 Seven Brides for One Brother. 12.30 Greg's Gridiron 100 Sunday Sport

Football: Chelsea play Leicester City at Stamford Bridge. Rugby Urion: updates from the top matches in Premier-ship One, including Wasps v Newcastle. Rugby League: Super League news, including Warrington v Bradford and St Helens v Sheffield. 6.00 Scottish Premier League. 8.00 News Extra. Roundup of the day's

news and sport. 8-30 Brief Lives. 5 Live's

insight from around the world. 10.00 Late Night Currie. to the care rught curne. Edwina Currie discusses the weekends big issues.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

Classic FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Jane Markham 9.00 Classic Romance. 12.00 Across the Threshold with David Threshold with David Mellor. 2.00 Alan Mann. 4.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Countdown Top Ten. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Sunday Night at the Opera. 11.00 Michael Mappin. 1.00 Evening Concert. 3.00 - 6.00 Concert. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths. Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.00 Pete and Geoff. 10.00 Danny Baker. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Janey Lee Grace. 6.45 London Calling with Janey Lee Grace/AM

Richard Allen. 7.30
Richard Allen. 7.30
Richard Allen. 10.00
James Merritt. 1.00
Steve Power. 4.30
6.30 Richard Allen. World Service Radio (198kHz LW) LOO The World Today. 1.90 The World Today.
1.30 My Century. 2.00
The World Today. 2.30
Mendian (Feature). 3.00
The World Today. 3.30
Global Business. 4.00
The World Today. 4.20
Sports Roundup. 4.30
7.00 The World Today

Talk Radio 6.00 My Favourite Year. 7.00 Paul Ross and Helen Gibson. 10.00 Derek Draper and Peter Hitchens. 12.00 Sunday Sport. 6.00 My Favourite Year. 7.00 Best of the Week. 8.00 James Whale. 1.00 6.00 Mike Dickin.

Sky Premier 6.00 Femmes Fatales (72302) 7.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996) (66963). 8.30 Going Under (1990) (81483) 10.30 Who Framed Roger Pabbir? (1988) (99050), 12.30 Hollywood Bizzz (38234) 1.00 All Dogs Go to Heaven II (1996) (9357234). 2.20 Going Under (1990) (821031) 3.45 Frog and Wombot (1998) (9279073). 7.00 Free Willy 3: the Rescue (1997) (63221). 9.00 Earry Norman's Flim Night (47315), 9.30 Hi-Life (1998) (71234), 11.00 The Crov: City of Angels (1996) (885654), 12.35 The Garden of Redemption (1997) (279600), 2.15 The Last Supper (1996) (373432), 3.50 - 6.00 While My Pretty One Sleeps (1997) (95777155).

(2396600) 5.30 Close.

FilmFour
6.00 The Scent of Green
Papaya (1993) (652/2573).
7.50 Shave it Like You
Mean it (5050760) 8.00 El
Manachi (1993) (2262470).
9.30 Desperado (1995)
(2262302) 11.20 From
Dusk til Dawn (1996)
(3347234) 1.05 Foadracers (1994) (8264221). 2.35
Denise Calis Up (1995)
(1695451) 4.00 - 6.00
The Day the Earth Stood
Still (1951) (4364819).

Discovery Channel Still* (1951) (4364819).

Discovery Channel 4.00 Steatth - Flying Invisible (1512925), 5.00 Extreme Machines (6741586), 6.00 Ultimate Gude (5676031), 7.00 Crocodile Hunter (6742215), 7.30 Medical Detectives (6088074), 1.00 Justice Files (6655242), 2.00 Close.

Siky One Sleeps (1997) (95777155).

Sky MovieMax
6.00 The Buttercream
Gang (1992) (37925). 8.00
The Big Game (1995)
(15296). 10.00 Fatso (1980)
(15012). 12.00 To Face
Her Past (1996) (38147).
2.00 The Big Game (1995)
(73321). 4.00 Fatso (1980)
(6091). 6.00 To Face Her
Past (1996) (50857). 8.00
Action Heroes (7234). 8.30
Perfect Crime (1997)
(40050). 10.00 Killer: A
Journal of Murder (1996)
(284976). 11.40 Normal
Life (1996) (197963). 12.5
The Tinth about Cats and
Dogs (1995) (835161). 3.05 2.00 Close.

Sky One
6.00 Hour of Power
(89692). 7.00 What-a-Mess
(67497). 7.30 Samural
Syber Squad (46654). 8.00
Orson and Olivia (18073).
8.30 Alen Fighters (68514).
9.00 Simpsons (90586).
9.30 Pokemon (41708).
10.00 Dream Team
(75166). 11.00 Wrestling
(55302). 12.00 Kung Fu
(24031). 1.00 Superman
(40079). 2.00 Beverly Hils,
90210 (24944). 3.00 VIP
(46789). 4.00 Deep Space
Nine (25296). 5.00 Voyeger
(2789). 6.00 The Simpsons
(8673). 6.30 The Simpsons
(8673). 6.30 The Simpsons
(8673). 6.30 The Simpsons
(8437). 8.00 Earth: Final
Conflict (7648). 9.00 The
X Files (56854). 10.00
Mismi Uncovered (59741).
11.00 South Park (26925).
11.30 Highlander (98050).

Dogs (1995) (835/61), **3.05** Blown Away (1992) (316626), **4.45 - 7.00** The Buttercream Gang (1992) (82956451). (62956451).

Siky Cimenta
11.00 The City That Never
Sleeps* (1953) (5310302).
1.00 Zenobia (1939)
(738234) 2.30 The Left
Hand of God (1955)
(095147). 4.00 The Big
Land (1957) (78534321).
5.45 Cinema Nation
(4322470). 6.00 The
Fighting Seabees (1944)
(7758370). 8.00 The Man
Who Would Be King (1975)
(83419925). 10.35 Crimes
and Misdemeanors (1989)

(3623789). **12.00** Room at the Top* (1959) (77410971). **2.05** Bombay Talkie (1970) (543645). **3.55** The Lemon Drop Kid* (1951) (2396600). **5.30** Close.

7.00 Long Play (1500971).

Sky Sports 1
7.30 Moto-Plus (71596).
8.00 Aerobics (19942).
8.30 Irish Motor Sport (49483).
9.00 Superbikes (64586).
11.00 Goals on Sunday (86296).
12.30 Motor Racing - Formula Palmer Audi (34857).
12.30 Motor Racing - Formula Palmer Audi (34857).
100 Ford Super Sunday Chelsea v Leicester (5542321).
4.30 Motorcy-cling Malaysia - Grand Prix (2985).
6.30 Super League Castleford v Gatieshead (411944).
9.00 Ford Football (98654).
10.00 Football (98654). Ford Football Special (98654), 10.00 Football League Review (97741), 11.00 Spanish Football (70741), 12.30 Superbikes (5773), 2.30 Scottish Football (10342), 3.30 Ford Football Special (95987), 4.30 Football League (53659), 5.30 Close, Sky Sponstor, 2 Sky Sports 2 6.00 Watersports World (8945012). 7.00 Aerobics (3678875). 7.30 World

(3678875). 7.310 World Sport Special (#123960). 8.00 Soccer (#659960). 11.00 Karane - ISKA Karane (#027470). 11.30 World Sport Special (#035499). 12.00 Football League Cardiff v Swansea. 12.00 Footbal League Cardiff v Swansse. (3043321). 2.00 Footbal -Auto Windscreens Trophy Final (2388050). 4.30 Extreme Saling (3079781). 5.00 Ford Golf USA (4028234). 8.00 Ford Golf USA (4019586). 11.00 NFL Europe Scotland v Rhein Fire (3673270). 1.00 World Wide Rugby (6386762). 3.00 Super League (1525426). 5.00 Close. Siky Sports 3 Sky Sports 3 9.00 Baseball (5141050). 12.00 Fight Night (523032). 2.00 Motors (62230321). 2.00 Motors (67190215). 2.30 Cricket West Indies v Australia (75983559). 6.00 Scottish Football Dundee v Rangers (93192499). 8.00 Cricket West Indies v Australia (96402673). 10.30 Irish Motorsport (51516296). 11.00 Watersports World

12.30 LAPD (20529), 1.00 Sightings (71451), 2.00 -7.00 Long Play (1500971). (46953296). 12.00 Close. RestScs95, 12.00 Close.

Eurosport
8.00 Tennis (43963), 9.00
The London Marathon
(6313592), 11.45 Motorcycing (84035857), 1.30
Cycling (778741), 4.00
Football (2321), 6.00
Superbike (37944), 7.00
Football (96673), 9.00
Sportscentre (528895), 9.15 Sportscentre (526895) 945 Cart (47198692), 11.00 Ten-nis (45627), 12.30 Close UK Gold

UK Gold
7.00 Angels (2977654).
7.30 Blake's Seven
7 Living 6.00 Cant Cook, Won't Cook (7376499) 6.30 Animal Rescue (1070215) 7.00 Professor Bubble RBS23R31 7.25 Barney

Australia Hescule (1070215)
7.00 Professor Bubble
(6862383). 7.25 Barney
and Friends (6881418). 7.50
Babaloos #947857). 7.55
Practical Parenting
(4946128). 8.00 Caillou
(7123401). 8.05 Polika Dot
Shorts #878334). 8.45
Johnson and Friends
(4173186). 8.25 My Zoo
(8040654). 8.30 Tiny and
Crew (8068147). 8.50
Practical Parenting
(9339344). 9.00 The Heat
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(9339344). 9.00 The Heat
(9339341). 9.00 The Heat
(9339364). 9.30
Can't Cook. Won't Cook
(2748079). 10.00 The
Bosearne Show - Highlights (1094895). 10.30
Brookside Ormbus
(2937019). 12.30 Filter: A
Tree Grows in Brooklyn*
(1945). (60378147). 3.10
Filter: Dasy Kenyon*
(1947). (83213012). 5.00 Mrs
Greenthumbs Double Bill
(774895). 6.00 Through
the Keyhole Double Bill

(2727586). 7.00 Rescue 911 Double Bil (9574661). 8.00 Ally McBeal (8108811). 9.00 Jerry Springer Uncut (72776876). 10.45 Enter-talinment Now! (7257895). 11.00 Sex Life (3608654). 12.00 Close. TNT 9.00 Sitting Target (1972) (93194857) 11.00 The Slams (1973) (3579489). 12.45 Gurs for San Separation (1986) (1987)

bastian (1968) (80702967). 2.45 Somebody Up There Likes Me* (1956) (36824105). **5.00** Close. (36824105). 5.00 Close.

Paramount
Comedy Channel
7.00 Clueless (5760). 7.30
Caroine in the City (6499).
8.00 Med about You
(2708). 8.30 Spin City
(1215). 9.00 Cheers (61012).
9.30 Cheers (45963).
10.00 Cheers (99960).
10.30 Cheers (99960).
10.30 Cheers (99960).
10.30 Cheers (99960).
11.00 Frasier (73857).
11.30 Whose Line is it
Arryway? (74963). 12.00
Fiegender Zirkus I
(60364). 2.00 Almost
Perfect (84044). 2.30 Tibs
and Fibs (94819). 3.00
Mork and Mindy (53083).
3.30 Abbott & Costello
(58141). 4.00 Close.

Granada Pius

(5814). 4.00 Close.

Granada Pkus
6.00 Mission: Impossible (6759708). 7.00 Bootsie and Snudge (1696188).
7.30 That's My Boy Watching (1914944). 8.30 Time after Time (1913215). 9.00 Mission: Impossible (9479321). 10.00 Behind the Velvet Ropes (9064050). 10.30 Homes with Style (1933079). 11.00 (8064050), 10,30 Homes with Style (1933079), 11,00 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1684321), 12,00 Jeeves and Wooster (5121925), 1,00 Maggie and Her (1695437), 1,30 Homes (16972079), 3,00 Homes (16972079), 1,30 Homes (16972079), 1,30 Homes (1697209), 1,30

FULL 7-DAY TV AND RADIO LISTINGS APPEAR IN 'THE INFORMATION'

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DIGITAL, CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION

معكذا من الملصل

BBC CHOICE DIGITAL ONLY arts in reputy (scourf) 233 Batterses 0.955 Home (926456) 5.45 Batterses Dogs Home (925727) 6.15 Match of the Day Greats (674104) 6.30 110 Per Cent (5608456) 7.00 Pck of the Week (36436272) 11.45 Row 2 (514985) 12.55 Close.

Anglia
As Lwy except nate
2.00
1245 BBC NEWS 24
6.00 BBC News (593:901) 7.00 BBC News (1557389, 7.30 Taking Moves (156723) 8.00 Weekend 2: (4442591 9.00 BBC News (4570521) 8.00 BBC News (4570521) 9.30 Straight Talk (509:524) 10.00 BBC News (457611) 10.30 LifeWatch (467546) 11.00 BBC News (4567098) 12.30 Face in the Crowd (509:6340) 1.00 BBC News (4567098) 12.30 Face in the Crowd (509:6340) 1.00 BBC News (4567038) 12.30 Straight Talk (4768727) 3.00 BBC News (4567038) 12.30 Straight Talk (4768727) 3.00 BBC News (4567038) 5.00 BBC News (4567531) 5.00 BBC News (4567531) 9.00 BBC News (4567531) 10.00 BBC News (4567571) 10.00 BBC News (4565571) 9.00 BBC News (4565571) 10.00 BBC News (4565571) 10.00 BBC News (4565571) 10.00 BBC News (4567471) 11.00 BBC News (4563571) 10.00 BBC News (4567471) 11.00 BBC News (4567471) 11.00 BBC News (4567571) 10.00 BBC News (4567507) 10.00 BBC News (4567571) 10.00 BBC News (4567571) 10.00 BBC News (4567571) 10.00 BBC News (4567507) 10.00 BBC News (4567507) 10.00 BBC News (4567507) 10.00 BBC News (4567507) 10.00 BBC News (4407585) 10.00 BBC News (4407586) 10.00 BBC N BBC NEWS 24

BRAVO BRAVO
8.00 Martial Law (8618123) 9.00 Films: The Vicim (980) (8668392) 11.00 Films: Skinny Tiger, Fatty Dragon (9739-975), 1.00 Martial Law (9758296), 2.00 Films: The Victim (1980) (1768234) 4.00 • 6.00 Films: Skinny Tiger, Fatty Dragon (9563296).

BRAVO DIGITAL BRAVO DIGITAL
DIGITAL ONLY FROM 12NOON - 800PM
12.00 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtes (78296TI)
12.30 Ultrrate Professional Wresting (5828494)
1.00 Acapulco H.E.A.T. (5823949) 2.00 The
Extrements (678283) 2.30 Teenage Mutant Hero
Turtles (806077) 3.00 The Fall Guy (553272)
4.00 Acapulco H.E.A.T. (5539377) 5.00 The
Extrements (6782833) 5.30 Ultrrate Professional
Wresting (600633): 8.00 The Fall Guy (5803183)
7.00 Acapulco H.E.A.T. (8509475) 8.00 Martial
Law (8618123) 9.00 Films: The Victom (1980)
(8688382) 11.00 Films: Shriny Tiger, Fatty
Dragon (9739479), 1.00 Martial Law (8758296),
2.00 Films: The Victom (1980) (758234) 4.00 6.00 Films: Skriny Tiger, Fatty Dragon
(9568296).

CARLTON CINEMA

CARLTON CINEMA
7.00 The Day They Gave Babies Away (1957)
(883543) 9.00 Summer Storm* (1944) (9015104)
11.00 The Baby and the Batteship (1956)
(9907524) 1.00 The Lady Vanishes (1979)
(909520) 3.00 A Town Like Alice* (1955)
(4839195) 5.00 Stagecoach* (1939) (46142253),
6.45 Fort Apache* (1949) (4033415) 9.00
Better Off Dead (1985) (8227340), 11.00 The
Delta Factor (1970) (4638456), 1.00 Better Off
Dead (1986) (46237343) 3.00 The Delta Factor
(1970) (1409418) 5.00 - 7.00 Summer Storm*
(1944) (3732896).

COSS.
CARTOON NETWORK
6.00 The Tidings (48937840), 8.3

Scotland (703307), 10.40 Sponscene the Day (7450456)

BBC1 WALES AS BC1 ENGLAND EXCEPT: 4.40 Final Soore (2804949, 4.53 Wales on Saturday - the Results (6383524), 5.45 Wales Today (703307). ANGLIA

ANCELIA

S LWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Stepping the World
(2061) 1.05 Angla News and Weather
(563907) 1.45 NBA 99 (552524, 2.20 Film:
The Cahe Mutiny. There are four ways of doing
rings on board my Ship, "says crazy Captain

7.00 Mark Goodier. 10.00 Chris Moyles.

1.00 Emma B. 3.00 Radio 1's R 'n' B

Chart. 5.00 Judge Jules. 7.00 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Dance Party.

9.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show.

12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehel Nite.

2.00 The Essential Mic. Todd Terry. 4.00

6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Brian Matthew. 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show.

of the Day. 9.00 Sounds of the 70s. 10.00 Bob Harris. 1.00 Lynn Parsons.

Radio 1

Radio 2

(88-90.2MHz FM)

p3 amount freeman. 3.30 Johnnie Walker. 5.30 Paul Gambaccini. 7.30 Here, There and Everywhere, a Concert for Linda. See Day of the Day. 9.00

Radio 3

6.00 On Air.

9.00 CD Review

4.00 - 7.00 Mo Dutta.

12_00 Private Passions.

(90.2-92.4MHz FM)

(97.6-99.8MHz FM)

6.30 Annie Nightingale.

(76014475) 2.00 Beedejucu (6712185), 2.30 The Mask (24797291) 3.00 2 Stupid Dogs (67133920), 3.30 Johnny Bravo (24709036), 4.00 The Mask (2479/201) 3.00 2 Stupp Logs (573320) 3.00 chrny Brave (2479926) 4.00 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (24788543) 4.30 Dexter's Laboratory (24784727) 5.00 Edd in Edd in Eddy (5745755) 3.30 Cow and Chicken (24788207) 8.00 Animanians (2479820) 6.30 The Finationnes (24798272) 7.00 Borman (5712591) 7.30 Superman (2479820) 8.00 Freakazodi (574799) 8.30 The Real Adventures of Johny Quest (57120450) 9.00 Scooly Doc (4328152) 9.30 Johnson Bravo (75055340) 10.00 The Powerpuff Gris (5851748 10.30 Dexter's Liboratory (5570494) 11.00 Cow and Chicken (43796340) 11.30 I Am Weasel (52247611) 12.00 Wacky Receives (4804265) 12.30 To Cot (2594446) 1.00 Heb/ 11's the Hair Boar Bunch (5612049) 1.30 Swat Kats (9784873) 2.00 The Tidings (29032063) 3.30 Binky Bri (5614565) 3.36 The Chicken (48905925) 5.00 Omer and the Starchid (1025750) 5.30 - 6.00 The Mage Reundebout (48905925) CHALLENGE TV

CHALLENGE TV

S.00 The Games Room (6007949, 5.15 Strike it Lucky (768475, 5.45 The Games Room (666307, 6.00 Family Fortunes (3956) 6.30 The Games Room (907856) 6.45 Candid Camera (756098) 7.35 The Games Room (427820, 7.25 Rol with it (579659) 7.35 The Crystal Mazo (575388) 9.00 The Games Room (586611) 8.15 The Kryston Factor (483320, 8.45 The Games Room (668949) 10.00 Candid Camera (69659, 10.30 Celebrity TV Bioopers (387475, 11.20 Don't Feed the Gondolas (50233) 12.00 Camal Knowledge (84234) 1.00 3-2-1 (36321, 2.00 Karaoka Challenge (6505), 2.30 Studs (4002), 3.00 Smptly Irresoctole (27012), 3.30 Biochbusters (64682), 4.00 Say the Word (5987), 4.30 Give Us a Clue (2871), 5.00 - 6.00 Shopping with Screenshop (56234)

CHALLENGE DIGITAL
DIGITAL ONLY FROM 6.00AM - 5.00PM
6.00 Take a Letter (45.04) 6.30 Friteen to One
(55.07) 7.00 Second Guess (84.07) 7.30 A
Word in Your Ear (63.534) 8.00 Triveal Pursuit
(55543) 8.30 Gladeators 2000 (57814) 9.00
Friteen to One (71.944) 9.30 Blockbusters
(82.096) 10.00 Concentration (46.969) 10.30
Say the Word (77678) 11.00 Give Us a Cue
(88.23) 11.30 Candid Camera (56.524) 12.00
Friteen to One (516.30) 12.30 Family Fortunes
(86.814) 1.00 Kurande Chellenge (83.388) 1.30
Say the Word (85.85) 2.00 Triveal Pursuit (67.27)
2.30 Candid Camera (93.07) 3.00 Give Us a
Cue (86.62) 3.30 Don't Drink the Waser (56.4)
4.00 Love at First Sight (88.99) 4.30 Studs
(95.43) 5.00 The Games Room (60.07949) 8.35
Strike It Lucky (76.8475) 5.45 The Games Room
(86.8307) 6.00 Family Fortunes (95.6) 6.30 The
Games Room (90.75.6) 6.45 Candid Camera
(75.009) 235 The Games Room (8.7920) 7.25
Rod with It (57.9559) 7.55 The Crystal Maze
(57.338) 8.00 The Games Room (9.7870) 7.25
The Krypton Factor (46.3320) 9.45 The Games
Room (66.8949), 10.00 Candid Camera (65.559),
10.30 Celebrity TV Bloopers (98.875), 11.20
Don't Feed the Gondolas (53.2123), 12.00 Close.

DISCOVERTY CHANNEL

DISCOVERY CHANNEL DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Weapons of War (5-45253) 5.00
Battlefields (5774314) 6.00 Battlefields (5816659)
7.00 Lost Treasures of the Ancient World
(6672949) 8.00 Black Box (6888366) 9.00
Fighting the G-Force (9601833) 10.00 The FBI
Files (8504820), 11.00 Discover Magazine
(3917272) 12.00 Battlefields (6656418) 1.00
Battlefields (6751470), 2.00 Close.

Copy | Copy |

(7225384), 3.25 Box Office America (82783760). 3.55 World Football (98294673), 4.20 CD UK (7926012), 5.35 ITV Nightscreen (8519741).

CENTRAL AS LWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Eastern Mb. (20611). AS DWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Casesm No. (2011). 1.05 Central News and Weather (15638307). 2.15 The Cosby Mysteres (528814). 3.50 TimeCop (7000104). 5.05 Central News, Weather and Goals Extra (7225384). 8.00 News; Weather (152630). 4.20 Jobinder (3725645). 5.00

PICK OF THE DAY

MIKE MYERS was once a humble TV presenter. Now he is the tudes. Elizabeth Hurley provides Cape Fear (10.15pm). sparky support as his sidekick.

EUROSPORT

FILMFOUR

FILTH-OUR S. 10 Color Patiabor: the Move (1989) (73364814) 7.45 Transporter (8804104) 8.00 Wolf (1994) (39348123) 10.10 Heavenly Creatures (1994) (3738562) 11.55 Meet the Feebles (1989) (373007), 1.30 Bad Taste (1988) (2627499) 3.00 Braindead (1992) (1469692) 4.40 - 6.00 Space Master X-7 (1957) (5764760).

If you're spending Saturday night in, you could do a lot worse creator of such mega-hit corredies than passing it in the company of as Austin Powers: Internat- Martin Scorsese, Sky Moviemax's ional Man of Mystery (8pm Sky evening dedicated to his work Premier, right), a spoof of 1960s kicks off with The King of spy capers. The premise of this Comedy (8pm), a devastating satellite premiere is that secret black comedy about the nature agent Powers has been frozen in of celebrity. It continues with a time. When he is reanimated in profile of the film-maker, Cutting the present day, he is still saddled Edge Special (9.45pm), and a with his outmoded Sixties atti- screening of his scary remake of JAMES RAMPTON

Adventures of Shertock Holmes (777-338), 9.00 One More Audience with Dame Edna (715-4524) 10.00 Frankle Howard Sinkes Again (155838), 10.30 Damy Belor On. (196736), 11.00 As Granada Men & Motors umi 200am (97-75-3), 2.00 Close.

2.00 Close.

HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00 Uncolved Mysteries of World War II
(3493017) 4.30 Unsolved Mysteries of World
War II (3462501) 5.00 Unsolved Mysteries of
World War II (220661) 5.30 Unsolved Mysteries
of World War II (3473255) 6.00 Unsolved
Mysteries of World War II (3403494) 6.30
Unsolved Mysteries of World War II (349416)
7.00 Bography Premiere Pamela Hamman
(8965765) 8.00 Close

TTV 2 DIGITAL ONEY ITV 2 DIGITAL ONLY

DISNEY CHANNEL
6.00 Gumm Bears (8508814) 6.25 Classic Toons (8469307), 6.35 Talespin (805340), 7.00 Classic Toons (9508630), 7.00 Aladdin - the Sense (5720814), 7.35 To Daimatans (311291), 8.00 The Little Mermoid (2849765), 8.25 Classic Toons (776309), 8.30 Hercules - the Sense (4340), 9.00 Ari Ahack (200800), 9.35 Doug (942123), 10.00 Ari Ahack (200800), 9.35 Doug (942123), 10.00 Ari Ahack (200800), 9.35 Doug (942123), 10.00 Smort Guy (82949), 11.30 Tem Angel (83678), 12.00 Boy Meets World (55456), 12.30 Brotherly Love (73340), 1.00 Drossaurs (70814), 1.30 Amazing Amnals (4568123), 1.55 Winne the Pook (6260494), 2.40 Bas See (1884096), 2.20 Bear in the Big Blue House (80608833), 2.45 Winne the Pook (62650494), 2.40 Bas See (1884096), 2.20 Bear in the Big Blue House (80608833), 2.45 Winne the Pook (6367659), 3.00 The Little Mermoid (2388), 3.30 Gool Troop (8678), 4.00 Tot Dalmatanic (7465), 4.30 Hercules - the Sense (3369), 5.00 Crash Zone (7833), 5.30 Smart Guy (7949, 6.00 Teen Angel (7962), 6.30 Boy Meets World (8314), 7.00 Filmit Space (654), 20622382), 8.45 Honey, I Shrund the Kids (194746), 9.30 Drosours (9304), 10.00 Home Improvement (5685), 10.30 The Wonder Years (6583), 11.00 Dr Qum. Medicine Woman (625672), 11.50 Toons (155253), 12.00 Close, EUROSPORT TTV 2 DIGITAL ONLY
9.25 Videotech (%945456): 9.55 Sport in Action
(2238348): 10.00 Board Wad (79096): 10.30
NBA 99 Minnesota Tumberworks v Detroit Pistons
(4423): 11.30 Futbol Mundai (2320): 12.00 Top
Ten of Everytting (3111096): 12.20 Humcanes,
(807107): 12.50 The Adventures of Captain
Pugwash (76877833): 1.00 Out of Sight (16017).
1.30 Britaint Creatures (1006527): 1.45 hs a
Mystery (6775253): 2.05 The Scoop (8105253).
2.30 It's a Mystery (2732659): 2.45 Football First
(76831253): 3.30 NBA 99 (9901): 5.00 NBA 99
Boston Celbos v Marm Heat (47901): 7.00
Survival Special (57727): 8.00 in the Wild
(66475): 9.00 Feisty Women: Riv Mayad Presents
(46611): 10.00 Cive James Meets the
Supermodels (56088): 11.00 Octobe Bai (94678)
1.00 The Haunted Fishtank (90944): 1.30 NBA
Action (37963): 2.00 Close
LIVING EURUS-POHT
6.00 Motorcycling (9042/562), 9:35 Tenns (39823678), 11.00 Motorcycling (74765), 1.00 Tenns (148920), 3:30 Superbike (91901) 4:30 Weightfitting (8075634), 6:35 Motorcycling (177982) 7:00 Weightfitting (99340), 9:00 Marbal Arts (61920), 11.00 Motorcycling (95344), 12:00 Superbike (23470), 1:00 Close, 3:00 Superbike (23470), 1:00 Close, 3:00 Superbike (74985), 4:00 - 8:00 Motorcycling (2364012).

LIVING
6.00 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7309727), 6.30
Animal Rescue (1003543), 7.00 Bug Alert (899567), 7.25 Callou (1637949), 7.30 Polks Dot Shorts (407949), 7.40 Johnson and Friends (640340), 7.50 Babaloos (497035), 7.55 Practical Parenting (4979456), 8.00 10 plus 2 (912561), 8.90 Tiny and Crew 38 (8085727), 8.35 Tiny Tales (9238054), 8.25 My Zoo (6173366), 8.35 Tiny and Crew (768659), 8.50 Practical Parenting (9326272), 9.00 The Heat is On (3193123), 9.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (2771307), 10.00 Home and Away (5-888949), 12.30 Films A Letter To Three Wives (1985) (87287678), 2.20 Films: The Setting Son (1998) (833129), 4.00 Monal Cook (985), 9.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (985), 9.20 Films: The Setting Son (1998) (833129), 4.00 Maury Power Double Bail (95800814), 8.20 Michael Cole Double Bail (95800814), 8.20 Michael Cole Double Bail (9580494), 8.00 Ally McSeal (8530229), 9.00 Jerry Springer Uncut (72709704), 10.45 Entertairment Now! (7284723), 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (3631962), 12.00 Close. LIVING

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIGITAL DIGITAL ONLY FROM 1100AM - 730PM AND

DIGTAL ONLY FROM 1100AM - 730FM AVE)
100AM - 500AM
1100 The Father of Camels (3435431 11.30
5eeman (342272) 12.00 The Shark Fites
5376727 1.00 Insection Seart Partners
67376727 1.00 Insection Seart Partners
67338-9) 1.30 Resplendont isle 5328291 2.00
King Koala 56722543] 3.00 Ivory Fig. (3430328)
4.00 Greed, Guns and Widdle (340523) 5.00
The Shark Fites (539291) 6.00 King Koala
(365567) 7.00 Freeze Frame - at Andic
Adventure (5310320) 7.30 Figt: from the
volcano (5602272) 8.00 Land of the Anaconda
(2484253) 9.00 Natural Born Käzes (249477)
10.00 Ladakh - the Desset of the Kingdom of Nepal (347354) 11.30 Someo bayond the Grave (672793) 12.00 Source of
the Michong (4430767) 1.00 Natural Som Kilers
(5237741) 2.00 Ladakh - the Desset in the Sky
(229766) 3.00 Kingan - the Sharpe Secret of
the Kingdom of Nepal (655942) 3.30 Someo
beyond the Grave (673944) 4.00 Source of the
Michong (3978296) 5.00 Close
NICKELODEON NICKELODEON

NICKELODEON
7.00 Rugrats Weekend (±6695141 1.00 Rugrats Vicelend (983123) 7.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Clueless (8543) 7.30 Carcine at the City (1982) 8.00 Mad about You (7291) 8.30 Spin City (3088) 9.00 Cheers (33659) 9.30 Cheers (64678) 10.00 Cheers (67659) 10.30 Cheers (64678) 10.00 Cheers (8704) 11.20 Vinose Line is it Anyway' (73814) 12.00 Films jabberwooky (1977) (3128) 2.00 Almost Perfect (1225) 2.30 Tibs and Fibs (24050) 3.00 Mork and Mindy (85012) 3.30 Abbott & Costello (15302) 4.00 Close.

SKY BOX OFFICE 1

SKY BOX OFFICE 1 12.00 Mortal Kombatt Armhitation (1997) (451050) 2.00 Mortal Kombatt Armhitation (5075789) 4.00 - 6.00 Mortal Kombatt Armhitation (6583789).

Annhazor (05578); SKY BOX OFFICE 2 6.00 Sphere (1997) (2548508); 8.30 Sphere (2333663); 11.00 Close, 7.00 Sphere (2543098); 9.30 Sphere (4402833); 12.00 Close.

9.30 Sphere (4402833), 12.00 Close.

SKY BOX OFFICE 3
6.00 Mousehunt (1997) (6519104), 8.00 Mousehunt (1997) (5014389), 12.00 Mousehunt (1997) (3336475), 2.00 Mousehunt (1997) (245036), 4.00 Mousehunt (1997) (245036), 4.00 Mousehunt (1997) (2453077), 10.00 Mousehunt (1997) (2453077), 10.00 Mousehunt (1997) (2453077), 10.00 Mousehunt (1997) (2453077), 10.00 Mousehunt (1997), (2450830), 12.00 Mousehunt (1997), (245083783), 2.00 Mousehunt (1997), (24508383), 2.00 Mousehunt (1997), (24508383

SKY BOX OFFICE 4

6.00 Hard Hain (1997) (5583795).

SKY PREMIER
6.00 Green Card (1990) (20384). 8.00 Warnors of Vinue (1997) (50949). 10.00 Betman and Roben (1997) (8529). 12.00 Green Card (1990). (33272). 2.00 Helio Again (1997) (296878). 3.45 Warnors of Vinue (1997) (33639). 5.30 Betman and Roben (1997). (48634). 7.30 preview (4678). 8.00 Austin Powers. International Main of Mystery (1997). 199543. See Pick of the Qiav. 18.00.00 Devisio Own. (1997) (75:307). **11.55** Ghost and the Darkness (1995) (75:6272). **14.55** Summer of Fear (1996) (80:673). **3.20** · **6.00** Blue Heat (1990) (142:67708). SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00 Snowboard Academy (1997) (73388) 9.00 Playing to Win (1997) (32543) 11.00 Cab to Canada (1998) (16727) 1.00 Snowboard Academy (1997)

SKY ONE
Z00 What-a-Mess (20036) 7:30 Samural Syber
Z004 What-a-Mess (20036) 7:30 Samural Syber
Z0,ad (651-3), 8.00 Serbad (6349-), 9.00 The
Serpsor's (4689), 9.30 Pokemon (80077), 10.00
Shadow Raiders (37098), 10.30 Godzila (4369),
11.00 Wresting (7029), 10.30 Godzila (4369),
11.00 Wresting (7029), 12.00 Wresting
(63340), 1.00 The New Adventures of Superman
(63389), 2.00 Amenica's Dumbest Commaks
(4985), 2.30 Pokemon (4325), 3.00 Godzila
(6320), 3.30 Shadow Raiders (5320), 4.00 Star
Treic Deep Space Nene (94433), 5.00 Star Treik,
Voyager (7272), 6.00 VP (69524), 7.00 Xena Wamor Princess (53659), 8.00 Dating Hell
(2017), 9.00 Films Sky One Special Feature:
Simpes (1681), (25104), 11.00 JAG (89458), 12.00
Showtoz Weekly (10447), 12.30 Linsolved
Mystenes (38166), 1.30 The Extraordinary
(93876), 2.30 - 6.00 Long Play (2050079),
SKY SPORTS 1

(\$3876) 2-30 - 6.00 Long Play (2050079).

SKY SPORTS 1

6.00 Hold the Back Page (68543) 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (96775) 8.00 Aerobas - Oz Style (18901) 8.30 Racing Nerva (17272) 9.00 Super League Halfax v Wigan (8962) 10.00 Australian Rugby Laague Pairramatta v Melbourne (55620) 12.00 Görtte Soccer Saturday (3012543) 5.30 Scotty Charltons Football Scrapbook (7833) 7.00 Basketball Play-off (77712) 9.00 Saturday Fight Night NSS21 11.00 Karate - ISKA Karate (30562) 11.30 Superts Austral (75272) 12.00 Spansh Football (33596) 2.00 Saleng (14673) 2.30 Superbikes (36943) 4.00 Rugby Union Update (37383) 5.30 - 7.30 Superbikes (36165).

Update (3783) 5.30 - 7.30 Superbikes (36166).

SKY SPORTS 2

6.00 Sports Unternited (8978340). 7.00 Aerobics

- Oz. Style (9373663). 7.30 Racing News (632348). 8.00 Soccer AM (573285). 12.00

Australian Rutes Football (308349). 2.00 Rugby Union (328678). 4.30 Sports Auction (308369). 5.00 Table Terms (5750/85). 6.00 Baseball Max. (3023562). 6.30 Rugby Union Update (8986369). 8.00 Ford Golf USA (404284). 11.00 Ford Golf USA: 1989 PGA Senors Championship (238758). 1.00 Major League Baseball - Game of the Week (6436876). 4.00 - 6.00 Fight Night (4935437). SKY SPORTS 3.

SKY SPORTS 3
12.00 Max Power (76003369). 1.00 Baseball Max 46609475). 1.30 Cricket (89559307). 7.30 Imemational Cricket West Indies v Australia 96139659. 10.30 Max Power (58762155). 11.30 Rebei Sports (62256369), 12,00 Close. THT CLASSIC MOVIES

TNT CLASSIC MOVIES
6.30 The VFS 1963) (5.476098), 8.30 Father of the Bride* (1950) (31730272), 10.15 Neptunels Daughter (1949) (76139814), 12.00 Susen and God* (1940) (62261291), 2.00 Bad Day at Black Rock (1955) (9018630), 3.30 Gun Glory (1957) (4517801), 5.00 The VFS (1963) (51549862), 7.00 It Happened at the Worlds Far (1963), 468989822, 9.00 Brass Target (1978) (89007253), 1135 Tool Brack Tick (1970) (87963253), 1135 Cool Bracke (1972) (7913876), 3.00 Brass Target (1978) (84453321), 5.00 - 6.30 Invasion Quartet* (1961) (20707708). (30707708).

TROUBLE
7.00 USA High (3935678) 7.30 USA High (294785) 8.00 Blast (7926524) 8.30 Mones, Games and Videos (7958123) 9.00 Sweet Valley High (5824678) 10.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (5380727) 10.30 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (2056494) 11.30 In the House (559456) 12.00 Weird Science (7929611) 12.30 Weird Science (5826494) 10.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (606077) 3.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (606077) 3.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (606077) 3.40 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (6787388) 3.30 Rush Climbing (64065901) 3.45 Sugar's Real Life Stones (64060456) 4.00 In the House (668253) 5.00 Weird Science (6782633) 5.30 Weird Science (660833) 6.00 Heartbreak High (580385) 7.00 USA High (1687882) 8.00 Close.

TROUBLE

TROUBLE DIGITAL
DIGITAL ONLY FROM 600AM - 7,00AM AND
8,00PM - 12,40D,NIGHT

6.00 No Naked Flames (7365123), 6.30 On the Make (47395494), **6.45** its in the Jeans (23406849), **7.00** USA High (3935678), **7.30** USA High (39485), **8.00** Blast (7926524), **8.30**

(3659) 3.00 Paying to Win (1997) (48475) 5.00 Cab to Canada 1998) (2298) 7.20 Accord Heroes (6036) 8.00 The King of Cornecty (1982) (6954678), 19.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (1994) (1997) (1

12.00 Cose.

UK ARENA
3.00 The First the Last, My Everything (3630).
3.30 The Arena 100 (9920). 4.00 Leter on Nick Lowe, Jummy Webb and Chip Teylor - in the Round (4731727). 4.50 One fish Rover (671161).
6.50 Motown Live (850675). 7.05 The Mavenicks - Raw (97920). 8.00 Arena People: John Wayne (6765). 9.00 Riminoskin (9501). 10.00 Films: Ed Wood* (1994). (7920716). 12.20 The Mavenicks - Raw (629302). 1.15 Riminoskin (1984825). 2.30 John Wayne (6890050). 3.00 Cose.

15K GOL ID.

John Wayne (9850050) 3.00 Cose.

LIK GOLD

7.00 Angels (9900982) 7.30 Neighbours
Omnibus (19918291) 9.25 Dallas Omnibus
(79918291) 9.25 Dallas Omnibus
(7994291) 12.10 EastEnders Omnibus
(798429) 12.10 EastEnders Omnibus
(798429) 12.10 EastEnders Omnibus
(798429) 12.10 EastEnders Omnibus
(798399) 8.30 More Specially Selected Carned
Corrott (9172098) 9.25 The Thin Blue Line
(5842129) 10.05 Red Divari VI (3357994) 10.45
Monty Pythons Plying Circus (3021843) 11.25
Live at Jongleurs (1997543) 12.00 Fibrat
Capincom One (9791 (1673673) 2.00 Rock Goes
to College (2001079) 3.00 - 7.00 Shopping with
Screenshop (2447370).

LIK HORIZONS

UK HORIZONS

UK HORIZONS
7.00 Get Gong (828475) 9.00 Typhoid Mary (220320) 10.00 Hunger Smila - a Hidden History (8801982) 11.00 Top Gear GTI (8827746) 12.00 Tomorrow's World Plus (8661920) 1.00 Great Railway Journeys (8647340) 2.00 Kingdom of the Ize Eear: the Final Challenge (901389) 3.00 Pine Marten - Spirit of the Wood (93102) 3.30 One Marten - Spirit of the Wood (93102) 3.30 One Marten - Spirit of the Wood (93102) 3.30 One Let he (534484) 5.00 Let on Earth (534484) 5.00 Anomal Hospital (5486497) 5.30 Riobot Wars (9073123) 6.00 Columbus and the Age of Discovery (866704) 7.00 Emerging Viruses (8257765) 8.00 Kaling for a Living (8233185) 9.00 Anomal (630678) 9.30 Louis Therour's Weid Weekends (996388) 10.30 Top Gear GTI (1270272) 11.30 Situstion Vacant (190723), 12.45 Situation Vacant (7537334) 1.00 Close UK STYLE UK STYLE

SNURDON VACART (*X3.7334), 1.00 Close

UK STYLE

7.00 The Ar Show (8831849), 7.30 Closet to Closet (880456), 8.00 Country Tracks (273833), 8.30 Tales from the Priverbank (2772704), 9.00 A Gotfer's Travels (2563456), 9.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (3746086), 19.30 Gerdening Neighbours (2563456), 19.30 Gerdening Neighbours (2563456), 19.30 Gerdening Neighbours (2563456), 10.0 The Flower Show (6302272), 11.30 Gerdenins: World (285543), 12.00 The Air Show (882320), 1.30 Closet to Closet (5850814), 2.00 Country Tracks (588235), 2.30 Tales from the Riverbank (9071765), 3.00 A Gotfer's Travels (2131320), 3.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (3759562), 4.30 Gardening Neighbours (905901), 5.00 The Flower Show (5864615), 5.30 Goroming Places (904253), 6.00 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (8072494), 6.30 Cardening Week (8072494), 6.30 Cardening Week (8072494), 6.30 Cardening Tracks (7286479), 8.30 Tales from the Riverbank (2035776), 9.00 A Gotfer's Travels (6322036), 9.30 How Does Your Garden Grow? (188746), 10.30 Gardening Neighbours (19036), 10.30 The Flower Show (6394253), 11.30 Growing Places (8007901), 12.00 Peter Seabrook's Gardening Week (4720906), 12.30 Gardeners' World (229796), 1.00 Close

VH-1

Gardeners' World (2297/96), 1.00 Close
VH-1
6.00 Divas Weekend (58845678), 2.00 Greatest
His ot., Madonna (90567830), 10,00 Something
for the Weekend in New York (47848088), 11.00
VH-1 Classic 806 Chart (47895692), 12.00 Divas
Weekend (9009123), 1.00 Greatest Hits of.
Divas (47862678), 1.30 Pop-Up Video: Women
First Special (53096859), 2.00 Divas Weekend
(7566088), 3.00 The VH-1 Abum Chart Show
(7456291), 4.00 VH-1 Divas Live 98 (88272123),
6.00 Divas Live 99 Preview Show (9005307),
7.00 VH-1 Divas Live 99! (47843543), 9.00 The
Kata and Jono Show (5333907), 16.00 Divas
Weekend (53339104), 11.00 VH-1 Spice
(47849727), 12.00 Midnight Special (9055466),
12.30 Pop-Up Video: Women First Special
(2199760), 1.00 VH-1 Liste Shift (97944215),
3.00 - 6.00 VH-1 Liste Shift (97944215). 3.00 - 6.00 VH 1 Late Sh

AS CHANNEL 4 EXCEPT: 5.05 Newyddion AS CHANNEL 4 EXCEPT: 5.05 Newyddion (41070814). 5.00 Y Clwb Rygb: Carolft lake on Llaneli in the semi-final of the SWALEC Cup. (37982456). 7.45 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (59826785). 8.00 Llwytan (41508524). 8.30 Dilyn Ddoe: Paul Robeson. Drama documentary about actor, singer and campaligner Paul Robeson and his relationship with the miners of south Wales. (41527659). 9.00 Dan yr Wyneb (63627009). 9.35 NYPO Blus Simone is admitted to hospital when he experiences laboured breathing and when he experiences laboured breathing and weakness. The squad helps an alcoholic cop

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

AS LWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (2061), 1.05 HTV News (15638307), 2.45 Pirate TV Yeo finends embark on a pourney around Britain's best adventure sports locations in an attempt at setting up their own television station. This week, the duo are in Los Angeles at station. This week, the duo are in Los Angeles at the biggest SK8 park in the world. (334307). 2.45 Warner Brothers Cartoon (504611). 2.55 Arwolf. Action adventure series about a hi-tech helicopter and its heroic pilot. Locke becomes the object of a pilot to steal Airwolf after a physician successfully conducts brain implant surgery which controls his thoughts and actions. (8068982). 3.50 TimeCop (7000104). 5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results (7225384). 3.25

Out. Senes in which members of the public get a chance to prove themselves in the media. In this edition, three more people compete to present the next programme with Vanessa Bawley and Simon knight. And a yrung girl is transported into a cartoon, to find out how they are made. (20611) 2.45 Mowes, Games and Videos (334307) 2.45 Prate TV (533678) 3.45 Wamer Brothers Cartoon 6678582, 3.25 Dinosaurs (5693833) 5.05 HTV West News and Sports

MERIDIAN AS LWT EXCEPT: 12-30 Pier Pressure The programme that presents the arts from a youthful point of view, with tast-moving, up-to-

youthful port of view, with fast-moving, up-to-the-minute reports on top bands, events and trends. (2061); 1.05 Mendian News and Weather (5639007. 1.48 NBA 99 (651254); 2.20 Film: The Came Mutiny (29247814) 5.05 Mendian News and Weather (7225384) 3.25 Box Office America (82783760); 3.55 World Football (96294679); 4.20 CD Uh. (7926012) 5.15 ITV WESTCOUNTRY

WEST COUNTRY
AS LWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Movies, Games and Videos (2061); 1.05 Westcountry News ris63/9307) 215 Firm: Father Carne Too, Stanley

Baxter and Sally Smith as newlyweds with an overbearing father. Fitful farce with James Justice, Leslie Philips, Ronnie Barker (94562) 3.55 TimeCop (7331949) 5.05 (94562) 3.55 TimeCop (7331949) 5.05 Westcountry News (722584) 3.25 Box Office Amenica (82783760) 3.35 World Football (96294673) 4.20 CD UK (7826072) 5.15 ITV YORKSHIRE

AS LWT EXCEPT: 12.30 Dinosaurs Sitcom about the Sinclairs, a family of civilised dinosaurs n prehistoric times. Weavyso's greed and Eart's naivete threaten the dinoseurs' existence. (2061). 1.05 Calendar News and Weather (15639307). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (15639307). 5.05 Goals Extra (5325104). TYNE TEES

AS YORKSHIRE EXCEPT: 1.05 North East News (15638307). 5.05 North East News and Weather (8927348). 5.10 Full Time (5325104).

weakness. The squad helps an alcoholoc cop who found Immself in the middle of a hold-up. (92252746). 10.30 Top Ten - Scandal (5026198; 12.05 First on Four, Harry Enfield (1576302; 12.35 John Peefs Sounds of the Suburbs (61346708; 1.05 West Heath Yard (54342383). 1.35 Film: Wild Search (43134925). 3.55 The Trip (6817031). 4.25 The Clangers (66119557). 4.45 Nightifie Legends (27377760). 5.35 Close.

RADIO

the time she died last year, Linda



By Charlotte Bronte, dramatised in three parts by James Friel. 2: 'Doctor John'. Having safely established herself at Madame Beck's school, Lucy has yet to lace madness, love and a haunting. With Catherine McCormack, Joseph Figures and Harriet Walter, Directors Catherine Balley and James Friel. Jonathan Keeble. Director Enyd Williams. 10.00 News and Weather. 10.15 The 1999 Reith Lectures. Five lectures about aspects of globalisation London School of Economics. 2: 'Risk'. and is tollowed by questions from an invited audience. Matt Frei is in the chair. 11.00 News; All the Rage. A four-part series featuring musical anecdotes from decades past. 2: The 1760s were a time of war and beligerence. David Owen Nomis and guests explore how the decade was reflected in popular songs, which are performed by Richard Suart. 11.30 Adventures in Poetry. 12.00 News. 12.25 Experimental Feature:

A Gentleman is Not a Pot.

12.48 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

12.30 The Late Story: Nightingale. (R)

5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.50 - 6.00 Bells on Sunday. Radio 4 LW (198kHz)

Aston Villa, Manchester United v Shelfield Everton Plus news from the Nationwide League, Rugby Union, Premiership One matches including Leicester v Saracens and Northampton v London Scottish, Plus news from the Swalec Cup semi-finals.

Britain's transport users. once and for all by transplanting damaged human sperm into the testes of rats. Once there, it can be repaired inside the rat's body and returned to the human 9.00 Global 5 Live's weekly selection of stories from around the plobe which will

6.00 Pete and Geoff. 9.00 Harriet Scott. 12.00 Classic Countdown with Russ Williams, 2.00 Rock and Roll Football. 5.30 Wheels of Steel 10.00 Janey Lee

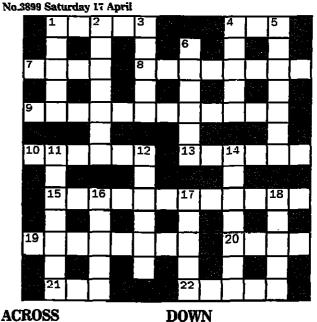
World Service Radio (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Soundbyte.

1.45 Write On. 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 Music Review. 3.00 World Today. 3.30 World Business Review. 3.45 Letter from America, 4.00 World Today, 4.20 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Agenda. 5.00 The World Today, 5.30 - 6.00 Omnibus.

6.00 OK to Talk 8.00 Gel Your Kit On with Bob Mills. 11.00 it's Round and Whete - with Tom Walt 2.00 Saturday



CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

County of SW Ireland

That (archaic) (3) Young animal (4) Mirth (8) Fat used for cooking

(9.3)10 Aquatic creature (6) 13 Select (6) 15 Numerical (12) Floor covering (8)

20 Shakespearean villain

21 Bond (3) 22 Yellow pigment (5)

Playing card (5)

Hooligan (5)

11 Anxious (7)

17 Pace (5)

12 One of two (6)

14 Large bird (7)

18 Ill-defined (5)

16 Unaccompanied (5)

Crimean resort (5)

State-supported (6)

Sewing implements (7)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Rows, 4 Merry (Rosemary), 9 Ad-lib, 10 Tyranny, 11 Reproved, 12 Mess, 13 Battle cruiser, 17 Text, 18 Fugitive, 21 Garment, 22 Olive, 23 Essay, 24 Note DOWN: 2 Oxlip, 3 Subsoil, 4 Mother country, 5 Rare, 6 Yonkers, 7 Zagreb, 8 Byes, 14 Tax-free, 15 Unicorn, 16 Reefer, 17 Togs, 19 Idiot, 20

2.00 Listeners' Choice. ars . gen and 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 6.00 Jazz Century. 6.30 Opera on 3. In one of Handel's w 80.50 most successful and dramatic operas, set 1.00 1.00 20 in Egypt in 48BC, Cleopatra tries to wrest Comada ous the throne from her brother Ptolerny and 3.00 win the love of Julius Caesar. Sylvia McNair, soprano (Cleopatra), Jenniter ogen of the Larmore, contralto (Gaulio Cesare). Stephanie Blythe, contralto (Cornelia). Chorus and Orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera, New York/John Nelson. Act 1. , . . . k 7.50 New York Stories. Continuing the 7.75 playwrights who have moved to New York present portraits of the country of the co . + 55 fiction and non-fiction, Irish novelist Colum 206 206 217 McCann finds a metaphor for the big city

8.20 Gluso Cesare, Act 2 9.10 The Met Opera Quiz. Martin Bernheimer puts listeners' questions to Alison Ames, Steven Blier and Brian 9.35 Gluno Cesare, Act 3. 10.35 A Price Worth Paying. A five-part

series in which former Radio 3 controller

in the small space of the handball court.

John Drummond takes a critical look at the state of opera in Britain since 1945. 3: 'The Creative Elements'. A look at opera from the point of view of a composer (Harrison Birtwistle), a director (David Pountney) and a conductor (Paul Daniel). 11.05 Mixing It. 11.30 Jazz on 3. 100 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 News Briefing. 6.05 Sports Desk. 6.10 Open Country. 6.57 Weather. 9.00 Home Truths. 10.00 News; Loose Ends. 11.00 News: The Food Programme. Everywhere, a Concert for Linda. See Pick 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.00 News; Money Box. 12.30 The News Quiz. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 News.

Radio 4

(924-946MHz FM)

1.15 Any Questions?.

2.00 News; Any Answers? 0870 010 2.30 Kremin Women. 1.06 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. (R) 3.00 News; The Saturday Play: Kiss and Kin. Dramatised by Jonathon Holloway from the award-winning novel by Angela Lambert

4.00 News; Weekend Woman's Hour. 5.00 Saturday PML 5.30 Talking Pictures. 5.54 Shipping Forecast. 5_57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.15 The Now Show. 6.45 Hearing with Hegley. (R) 7.00 News; Saturday Review. Tom Sutcliffe and guests cast a critical

eye over the week's cultural events. This edition includes a look at a major exhibition of Vassily Kadinsky's work at the Royal Academy. 7.45 Sporting Sermons. In the second of three programmes examining sport and its place in our national life, Simon Barnes tries to explain why the British love horses but hate horse riders.

8.00 News: The Archive Hour: Redeeming Features. Four programmes in which Piers Plowright visits the BBC sound archives to listen to highlights of radio leatures that have excited him. 3: 'Chronicle'. History, both great and small, is made.

PICK OF THE DAY ONCE THE butt of envious gibes, by

McCartney had become as much admired as her knighted husband. BBC Radio 2 has secured the first broadcast rights to the charity concert held at the Royal Albert Hall in her honour - Here, There and Everywhere (7.30pm R2) which features contributions from Elvis Costello (right). Tom Jones, the Pretenders, and Marianne Faithfull DOMENIC CAVENDISH

9.00 News; Classic Serial: Villette.

given by Anthony Giddens, director of the Why have our lives become so difficult to manage? This second lecture comes from the New Convention Centre in Hong Kong

12.00 - 12.04 News Headines Shipping Forecast. Radio 5 Live (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Dirty Tackle 6.30 Breaklast 9.00 Chiles on Saturday. 11.00 Sportscall 1.00 Sport on 5. With lan Payne. Football: goal news, reports and commentary on a top game in the Premiership Futures include Liverpool v Wednesday, and Newcastle United v

8.00 Move ft. The asses that matter to 8.30 Rat Race An exclusive look at a groundbreaking procedure to cure male infectility. New research pioneered in Japan promises to cure this condition

10,00 Late Night Currie Edwina Currie with the weekends talking points. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. Classic FM 6.00 Jane Markham. 8.00 Countdown.

11.00 Masters of Their Art. 12.00 Mike Read. 3.00 Margaret Howard. 6.00 Classic FM at the Movies. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Opera Guide. 10.00 The Classic Outz. 12.00 Midnight Music 2.00 Evening Concert. 4.00 . 6.00 Sunday Start. Virgin Radio (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)

Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 James Memitt.

Talk Radio

Soccer. 5.05 505 with Gary Newborn and Tom Watt. 7.30 Nancy Roberts. 10.00 Dave Barrett 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickm.

JASPER REES

TELEVISION REVIEW



gone off." He ought to work that up into a company motto. The Executive Club: ripe bananas, and rocloms to die for. Alun's key client is Wynford, a Welsh self-made millionaire with narrow eyes in his forties, who spends his leisure hours forfornly patrolling the waters of Mallorca in his motor cruiser. The Executive Club set him up on a date with Leonora, a plummy blonde estate agent who blow-dries her dog's fur, and filmed them glugging champagne. "Chaars," said Leonora, raising her flute. "Mmm. Delish!" Wynford grew up a member of the Plymouth Brettren no TV, no radio, and certoinly no motor cruisers, but in his romanticised account of his childfhood, he didn't mention that to I Leonora, She'd have run a mile.

The Mutchmaker is not a docu-soap in any ordinary

พอเมอก

BBC

7.00 The Munsters (R) (T) (9773272). 7.25 News; Weather (T) (2614388).

7.30 Children's BBC: Fireman Sam (R) (8031017). 7.45
Little Monsters (R) (S) (3510291). 7.50 Conan the
Adventurer (R) (8117253). 8.40 The Silver Surfer (S)
(4288543). 8.35 The Fiintstonee (R) (9578307). 9.00
Live and Kicking (S) (97973524).

12:10 News) Weather (T) (9132036)

12,46

12:15 Gre 15 Grandstand (5) (9/3/307). 12.20 Football Focus (9458630). 1.25 London Marathon Preview (15620659). 1.35 Olympic Magazine (588/2611). 1.50 Racing from Newbury (950/3/611). 2.10 Snooker (3560/524). 2.25 Racing from Newbury (358/39307). 2.40 Around the Grounds (5/70272). 2.50 Racing from Newbury (5/504814). 3.10 Snooker (8675475). 3.25 Racing from Newbury (8/3/4962). 3.45 Football Half-Times (4/908/46). 3.55 Snooker (7/6/4/859). 4.40 Final Score (7/6/3/814).

News; Weather (T) (840949). 5.45 Regional News and Weather (703307).

5.50 Families at War. Shooting Stars meets The Generation Game as Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer give the Simpson family from Glasgow and the Shilling family from Kent bizarre and surreal tasks. Steps are this week's musical guests (S) (T) (138833).

6.30 Big Break. You've been snookered as Jim Davidson welcomes guest potters Peter Ebdon, Stephen Hendry and Mark King (S) (T) (104).

Z 🗇

7.00 Whatever You Want. Gaby'll fix it, as La Rosin helps three tea-ladies who battle it out to win a trip abroad to find out how lea is made. And Engelbert Humperdinck gives another woman a big surprise (S) (T) (400982).

The National Lottery - We've Got Your Number. With Brian Conley (S) (1) (298843).

45 City Central. The northern cop shop receives a phone call from a southerner warning that an officer will die by 5 o'clock that day. Ray Pickering is concerned when he realises that a man who has recently been released from prison after serving time for stabbing a police officer is heading north (S) (T) (243185).

Creek. A man appears to have defied the e. Intrigued? So are Alan Davies and Caroline another of these diverting mysteries (R) (S)

9.55 Birds of a Feather (R) (S) (T) (959678)

10.25 News; Weather (T) (186920).

Personal loan rates.

Snooker. Highlights of the opening day's play from the Crucible in Sheffield (S) (6917963).

12:10 Elilija Eagle's Wing (Anthony Multi-layered, British-made western a' a renegade Indian. See Film of the De

1.10 Top of the Pops (S) (T) (1253437).

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DIRECTLINE

ANYTIME Sam to Spm Saturday to Friday
and Pant to Spm Saturday.

Planta Head Spm Saturday.

Planta Head Spm Saturday.

(7.50pm BBC2, right) When will broadcasters grow out of their mania for herding programmes into zones or themes? As if viewers care whether the show they want to watch has been packaged together with others. Surely history lovers would be better served having their programmes sprinkled around the week instead of in one big hit? History Zone brings together Meet the Ancestors. One Foot in the Past and Timewatch, the latter tailing the story of 1930s eco-warrior; Grey Owl. This seeming American Indian wasn't quite what he appeared, being, in fact, a Briton who emigrated to Canada at the age of 17.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (9.05pm BBC2, right) There really is very little clse of interest on TV tonight, which favours those who were too busy earlier in the week to watch Tony Marchant's spare, well-cast and intelligent version of Dickens's Great Expectations. BBC2 is showing it in one chunk tonight. If you've already seen it earlier in the week, or you want to know more, there is a documentary about the making of the series, Forging the World of Great Expectations, this afternoon at 2.25pm on BBC2. Apart from showing how they researched the hats and frocks, the film puts Dickens's novel into its wider socio-historic context.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

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10.40 Match of the Day. Big Des introduces the bast of the action from the Premiership, leading with Manchester United vs Shaffield Wadnesday (S) (T) (7450456).

11.50 The Frank Skinner Show (R) (S) (T) (109949).

I.40 Joins BBC News 24 (78785418). To 6.50am.

7.50

100

Jonathan Creek. A laws of time. Intrigued Quentin in another of (T) (764814).

GIODS Great Expectations. A see – in one go this time – Tony March of Charles Dickens's novel. See *Drama* (R) (S) (T) (42111982).

HILL Police Academy 5 - Assignment Miami Beach (Alan Myerson 1988 US). It was time for Assignment Dustbin by the time this bungling cops series reached its fourth sequel. Dire (T) (383031).

The Jerry Springer Show (R) (S) (8721963). 3.25 Box Office America (R) (82709708). 3.50 World Football (44792498). 4.20 CD UK (7935760). 5.40 ITV Nightscreen (3871234). 5.30 ITV News (67944). To 6am.

DRAMA OF THI E DAY

BBC2

(7022814), 6.35 Bulls, Bears and China Shops (7022814), 6.35 Bulls, Bears and China Shops (7.00 Women of Northern Ireland (15340). 7.30 French Revolution: Impact and Sources (T) (887 7.55 Computers and the Arts (5182659). 8.00 (24 (S) (51758). 9.00 Open Saturday (R) (S) (886 10.40 See Hear on Saturday (S) (4516307). 11.: World Snooker Championship (S) (2022630). 12 and Drink (R) (S) (T) (327017).). **11.25**)). **12.15** Food

45 ITIM The Court Jester (Norman Panama and Melvin Frank 1956 US). Wilhout a shadow of a doubt, Denny Kaye's finest 100 minutes. It's a neatly executed parody of the costume romp, with Danny boy disguising himself as a jester in order to help overthrow evil tyrant Basil Rathbone (who is great fun). With Glynis Johns, Angela Lansbury and Cecil Parker (6712/1833).

2.25 Forging the World of Great Expectations (S)
(T) (51435369). 2.55 Bitesize Britain (S) (T) (5173369).
3.05 Space 1999 (3615611). 3.55 TOTP 2 (S) (7635901).

4.40 World Snooker Championship. David Vine introduces further coverage of the opening matches from the Crucible Theetre (S) (62330388).

6:16 Correspondent. In the year that the reunited Germany reinstalls its parliament in Berlin's Reichstag, Caroline Wyatt investigates why the city has the fastest growing Jewish community in the world. Plus, a report from Ghana on fetish priests and their penchant for slave girls (S) (T) (479727).

7.00 History Zone: Meet the Ancestors. First of this evenings programmes with a historical theme (S) (344098). 7.10 One Foot in the Past. Kirsty Wark traces the history of the Scottish Crown Jewels, and Dan Cruickshank celebrates the invention of the chirmney (Followed by Meet the Ancestors) (S) (T) (886388).

7.50 GIOGE Timewatch: Groy Owl - the Great White Hoax Documentary telling the story of one of the world's first eco-warriors, the most famous conservationist of his day and a man who wasn't all that he seemed. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T)

8.40 History Zone: Meet the Ancestors. The last and longest of three visits today to archaeologist Julian Richards and team as they attempt to reveal the secrets of a burial vault beneath Coventry Cathedral (832123).

one with Michelle Pfeiffer in the shiny teather catsuit. Sorry, the rest was just a blur. This was parily due to Pfeiffer's Catwoman, but mainly thanks to director Tim Burton's narrative chaos. Burton may be a visual genius, but he can't organise a picture. Anyway, the main grief comes courtesy of The Penguin (Danny DeVito) (S) (T) (30020949).

3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bitesize Revision Design and Technology 2 (82168), To 5am.

1.50 Outer Limits (Followed by Weatherview) (8483741). To 2.40am.

EVISI

CD UK (S) (72235). **12.30** Wannabe (S) (T) (20611). **1.00** ITV News; Weather (T) (15630036). **1.05** London Weekend Today (T) (15639307). **1.10** On the Ball (T) (2005123). **1.45** NBA '98 (T) (319098).

Would I Lie to You? The last of these shows in which prankster DJ Steve Penk pulls some fast ones on his studio audience. With Shaun Williamson (Barry from EestEnders) and Frank Bruno. Hur, hur, hur (S) (T) (85/272).

01.0

700

ITV News; Weather; Lottery Result (T) (182630)

another set of quick-change artists. This week it's a part-time waitress from Devon, who appears as Joan Osborne (I've no idea either) and a 17-year-old youth worker from Lancashire who's going to be LeAnn Rimes. Cue lack of audience recognition (S) (T) (515814).

OO The Way They Were. Steve Penk again -- this time overseeing an ITV version of the BBC's Before They Were Famous. So, witness Kate Winslet in a 1992 sticom, a slimmer Robble Coltrane appearing in kids' classic Metel Mickey, and assorted EastEnders stars back when their careers began. And so on (S) (T) (5524).

2.00 IIII Wild Search (Ringo Lam 1989 HK). Martial-arts thriller from John Woo protégé Ringo Lem (811586). 3.40 The Trip (82781302). 4.10 The Clangers (86201963). 4.30 Nightille Legends (77470). 5.00 Pearl (R) (S) (3253741). 5.25 Alfie Alkins (R) (3170370). 5.30 Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (2688895). To 5.50am.

25'SMTV LIVe (S) (15897543).

Cannon and Balls only foray into the movies, although you might be surprised to learn that they made any such move. Let's put it this way, it's no overlooked masterplace. Tommy and Bobby play two policemen plotting to save their dozy police station from closure by inventing a crime they can then solve. Strangely, both Roy Kinnear and Eric Sykes thought this was worth getting out of bed for (528814).

Early Edition (S) (7000104), 4.45 ITV News; Sports Results; Weather (T) (2872340), 5.05 London Weekend Tonight (T) (7225384), 5.20 Cartoon (8770478),

Goodnight Mr Bean. As we look forward to Goodbys Mr Bean, the internationally ecclaimed silent comedy character (coming to some in-flight entertainment near you soon) visits the local hospital's out-patient department (R) (687307).

Blind Date. More people who dislike and don't tancy each other paraded on a sofa by Cilia Black. Dawn and Chris return from Philadelphia and Adam and Carolynne tell all about Lisbon (S) (T) (9340). 7,00

9.00

2,40

5.05 210

6.30 Channel 4 News, Weather. Presented by Jon Snow and including all Saturday's sporting news (T) (814).

The Powerlist - Scotland. Jon Snow presents a list of the 100 most powerful people in Scotland. As Scotland prepares to efect its first parliament for 300 years, who really wields the power north of the border? (T) (7982).

8.00 The White House Tapes. Charles Wheeler continues his look at the internal workings of the White House. This week he tells the story of the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which pushed America Into the Vietnaun War, using tapes of President Lyndon Johnson's conversations with his Secretary of State (6630).

Frasier. Maris uses Niles's feelings for Daphne as ammunition in the divorce, while Niles appoints Roz's ex-boyfriend to represent him (S) (T) (5630).

9,30 Top Ten - Scandal. The former Conservative MP for Tatton, Neil Hamilton, joins his wife Christine to present this list of the 10 biggest scandals of the century - from Robert Maxwell and Nick Leeson to Profumo and the House of Windsor (T) (578901).

Queer as Folk (T) (443765). 11.50 Sex and the City (T) (462920). 12.25 John Peel's Sounds of the Suburbs: The North East (S) (T) (8758876). 12.55 4 Later: West Heath Yard (T) (832186). 1.30 Mirrorball (75316).

11.05

FILM OF THE DAY

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THE WEEKEND REVIEW
The Independent 17 April 1999

7.00 6.00 Sesame Street (R) (S) (86901).

DO T4: Animal Alphabet (R) (2611291). **7.05** T4: Bush Tales (R) (2610562). **7.10** T4: Dig, Dug and Dalsy (R) (S) (5244272). **7.25** The Magic Roundabout (R) (2607098). **7.30** T4: Home to Rent (S) (T) (29543). **8.00** T4: Transworld Sport (R) (20494). **9.00** Morning Line (S) (16630). **10.00** Inside Rugby with Thierry Lacroix (25727). **11.00** Gazzetta Football Italia (R) (T) (3083272).

Good for You? (R) (S) (T) (5604814). **6.30** Was It Good for You? (R) (S) (4867036). **7.00** 5 News and Sport (S) (2584765). **7.30** Milkshakel (S) (2372723). **7.35** Wilmzies House (R) (4703036). **8.00** Lassie (8583369). **8.30** Wishbone (R) (S) (8575340). **9.00** The Enid Blyton Secret Series (R) (S) (859920). **9.30** Roobarb (R) (S) (2619727). **9.45** Pitch, Hit and Run (2607962). **10.00** Loggerheads (R) (S) (4878386). **10.30** The Wonder Years (8595104). **11.00** The Pepsi Chart (R) (S) (T) (1715369). **11.30** Footy Shorts (S) (19207475). **11.45** Beverly Hills, 90210 (R) (S) (T) (8937494). **12.40** Singled Out (R) (S) (63477123). **1.05** Bang Liberty (31792253). **1.30** RAD (R) (S) (61472017). **1.50** 5 News (S) (T) (64563630).

Lana Turner and a huge cast of extras recreate this Eiblical story. Turner plays a pagan priestess who turns the head of good Jewish boy Edmund Purdom (in a role rightly turned down by Marlon Brando) (48479524).

Channel 4 Racing from Ayr and Thirsk. The highlight of the Ayr meeting is the Scottish Grand National at 4.05pm. The other races are the 2.25, 2.55, 3.25 and 4.40pm. There's also the 4.25pm from Thirsk (87556524).

3,20

Sunset Beach Omnibus. A dejected Meg runs into the sea and other delights in the headcase daytime soap (R) (S) (T) (69856475).

在交

1111 The Million Dollar Rip-Off (Alexander Singer 1976 US). No-star TV movie crime caper about a young electronics genius plotting a payroll heist (76678901).

Brookside Omnibus. Lndsey, who's obvicusly watched *Reservoir Dogs* and *Taxi Driver* a few too many times, sets out on her mission (R) (S) (T) (8662524).

6.00 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. The halfman, half-god finds Salmoneus working at a pleasure palace. Whatever (R) (S) (4112369).

5.55 5 News and Sport (S) (T) (3836017).

Night Fever. Suggs hosts while the C-list induige in some karacke. With team captains Davina McCall and Shaun Williamson (R) (S) (T) (3350307).

5 News and Sport (S) (1) (1120758)

Coming Disasters. More cheery prophecies of d with a look this week at the threat of killer plagues, including Ebola fever, Alds and "other viral diseases capable of wiping out entire cities". Entire cities, eh? Sounds like a job for Batman (S) (4642340).

9,00 US). Based on an original screenplay by Akira Kurosawa, Andrei Konchalovsky is second American film (the first was Marie's Lovers) is this gripping action adventure with a mean central performance from Jon Volght. He plays an escaped con who, with dimwit sidekick Eric Roberts, hitches a lift on a passing train while legging it from their Alaskan prison. Then the driver suffers a fatal heartaltack. Rebecca De Mornay co-stars as the passenger who begs the convicts to save the train (7) (9075123).

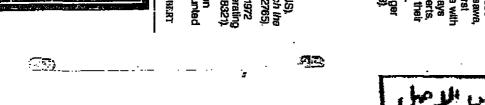


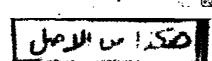
35 111M Butterflies Are Free (Millon Kalselas 1972 US). Dated drains about free spirit Goldie Hawn liberating a blind neighbour from his possessive mother (786/8321).
40 111M The House That Mary Bought (Simon MacCorkindale 1994 UK). Susan George buys a haunted house in Brittery (7947147). To 4.35am.

Television Guide BY Genard Guide.









INVESTING, PAGE 3

32

REES

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JEEPERS! IT'S THE **NEW GRAND** CHEROKEE

MOTORING, PAGE 8



INTO THE WOODS: **BE A LANDOWNER** FOR £14,000

PROPERTY, PAGE 9



Spinning a Web of lies

Share-rampers have hit the Internet. The question is: can they be stopped? By Teresa Hunter

Praetorians, the big, bad wolves who threatened to destroy the American economy by hacking into Wall Street - before they were outsmarted by a lonely anorak in the form of Sandra Bullock.

All very crass. Or it should have been, if recent events hadn't exposed just how uncomfortably close to reality the fantasy of Bullock's sci-fi film The Net had brushed.

The risks of investing on the World Wide Web were finally brought home when private investors lost tens of thousands of pounds each after a hoaxer placed a bogus website on Yahoo Finance. a share-trading-tip notice board.

His bulletin leaked rumours of a takeover bid by the Israeli company ECI for the small Nasdaq-listed Pari-Gain Technologies of California.

Only there was no bid. But this didn't stop its share price rising sharply from \$8.5 to \$11.13 before falling back to \$9.38 dollars on the back of the euphoria. More than 14 million shares changed hands, compared with a normal two million daily trades.

Share prices have always moved on whisper and rumour, with bogus speculation catalytic to investment disasters from the South Sea Bubble to the 1929 Wali Street Crash. But concerns are mounting that the Internet may be particularly vulnerable to illegal shareramping operations, leaving the enthusiastic but guillible small investor

Bloomberg's European managing director Lex Fenwick says: "This is the great joy but also the great danger of the Internet. It is so big that no one knows who is putting everything up or whether there is any truth in any of it. Anyone can make a website. That's what makes it so exciting, but so very, very scary."

Another industry insider, who does not wished to be named, goes much further. He says: "I suspect that what happened last week happens all the time. But on this occasion it got out of hand, the price rose higher than usual, people lost a lot of money and they got mad. That's why it became a story.

"But there are probably hundreds of smaller, similar stories going on all



Sandra Bullock flushes out financial fraudsters in "The Net' - but real life is not so simple

about. The truth is, we just don't know the scale of the deception, and anyone who says he does is a liar."

The temptation to spread unfounded rumours about a share is enormous. Pull it off and you can make a fortune as easily as printing money. You buy stock cheaply, post some hot gossip about a takeover or similar on a bulletin board, watch the share soar sell high and pocket the difference.

Alternatively, if you bought some dud stock, and want to minimise your loss, spread some rumours in an Internet chat room, and if you're lucky the price will ease off its bottom, and you'll be back in the red.

But there are also strong reasons why companies would play this dangerous game. A predator might try to drive down the value of a company it wished to buy by spreading spurious

by faking good news. Naturally, all these activities are iland there are tough laws in place to guarantee stable markets.

Barclays Stockbrokers managing the vital interests of all governments to ensure that capital markets are open, honest, transparent and se-

cure. This is an absolutely necessary function of any economy.

"History tells us that in any industry there are people who will try to get something for nothing. But if markets scandal. Another in the doldrums are well regulated, such people will not might try to rachet up its share price succeed for very long."

In the UK it is a criminal offence to give financial advice without proper legal throughout the Western world. authorisation, and the Financial Services Authority, the City watchdog, says it will pursue anyone offering unauthorised advice which is available director Tom Sheridan says: "It is in to a UK Internet user, wherever in the

world it emanates from. But the reality is a little more complex. A spokesman for the FSA admits

that the nature of the Web means that

enforcing the law is not always straightforward. There are hundreds, if not thousands of Internet share-information lines, the most reliable of which include well-known names like Bloombergs, Barclays, Charles Schwab, American Express, Dow Jones, Stan-

dard & Poors or the Financial Times.

Then there are the racier yet nevertheless reputable services like Motley Fool, at fool.com, a gossipy tipster with chat rooms which is very popular in the States. Scores of similar tip sheets can be accessed through normal search facilities like Jeeves Money or Yahoo Financial.

Finally there are volumes of dubious "hot tips" circulating from unknown sources, which are almost impossible to trace and substantiate.

The difficulty is separating the wheat from the chaff, as the PairGain Technologies episode proved. The hoaxer had deliberately constructed his website to look like a Bloomberg report, to achieve maximum impact.

Counterfeiting in this way has never been easier than with the Net. You simply pull up some pages, and download a design. Nothing could be simpler to then change the information contained and repost the page.

As the neurotic Bullock said in The Net: "It's all there just begging for someone to screw with. They've done it to me and they'll do it to you."

- Never buy off an Internet tip any more than you would act on something you overheard in the pub.
- Never act on one source of information alone. Always get confirmation elsewhere.
- Study the website address carefully. A hoaxer may counterfeit a page, but only Bloomberg can use its website address. Check with the organisation behind the address whether a page with its name is bogus or not.
- Check any contact telephone numbers.
- Always deal through reputable organisations.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK



Property of the week

This two-bedroom house in the village of Benson, 12 miles from Oxford, was built before the car impinged on property design. There is no vehicle access to the edge of the cottage; instead a public path runs along the front, dividing the house from its garden... which, by way of a bonus, includes an air-raid shelter built snugly for two.

Simply and sympathetically restored, it has a good fitted kitchen, a dining room and a 14ft sitting room with an exposed stone wall, an open fireplace, shelving and a wine store. The garden also has a large summerhouse with a 13ft sitting room, a utility room and a loo. If it came with a garage, it would cost around £30,000 more than it does. But public parking is only 50 yards away at the end of the path. The guide price is £160,000. For details call Mallams on 01865 311909. ROSALIND RUSSELI



Under normal circumstances there would not be much to recommend a Vauxhall Monterey. It was a pretty undistinguished off-road vehicle, and this model has now been discontinued. This was perhaps surprising, because the Monterey was nothing more than a rebadged Isuzu Trooper, itself a highly regarded 4x4.

Essentially a Monterey is as roomy and tough as a Trooper, but the lack of image has meant rapid depreciation. It is not a shock, then, to find an unsold delivery-mileage example at Marshalls (01473 240200) on offer at £18,995 a saving of £8,000 on the showroom price. Tempted? Well, the V6 engine's thirst for fuel, at around 20mpg, might put you off, and expect even more depreciation over the next few years.

JAMES RUPPERT

Big lenders refuse to play ball on rate cuts

Homeowners' hopes for lower mortgage payments have been dealt a harsh blow. By Paul Slade

MILLIONS OF borrowers hoping that the 0.25 per cent cut in base rates by the Bank of England would be reflected in a similar reduction on their home loans faced disappointment this week, as the UK's biggest lenders refused to play ball.

Although Halifax, Abbey National, Cheltenham & Gloucester, NatWest and Northern Rock announced that they were trimming their variable rates by between 0.1 and 0.14 per cent - less than the base-rate cut the preyious week - they warned that in future borrowers would have to take a back seat to lenders.

Paul Duffin, general manager for mortgages and savings at the Halifax, says: "Our view is that there might be one more cut in base rate to go - down to, say, 5 per cent. As you get down to the bottom, it's a question of striking a balance between the demands of not drop its rate.

both borrowers and savers. We're down to rates now that we haven't seen for a long, long time." Lorna Waddell, an Abbey National

spokeswoman, adds: "We haven't said categorically whether we will or will not lower rates any further. But our savers outnumber our borrowers by seven to one, and their needs will be at the top of our mind from now on." At the C&G's, a spokeswoman says:

"Savers are getting concerned about the continued cuts. Borrowers have benefited, and they may well now see savers being looked after more than in the past. We would certainly concur with the Halifax and Abbey National."

Other big lenders, including Bradford & Bingley, have yet to decide whether to pass on any or all of the base-rate cut to their borrowers. Nationwide said this week that it will

executive at Virgin Direct, which reduced its variable rate by the full 0.25 per cent, argues that the big lenders' argument is flawed: "A taxpayer would need over £6,000 in a deposit account to lose out by just £1 a month as a re-

Skipton Building Society, are also taking a different line - at least with a few specialist products.

sult of a 0.25 per cent cut in rates. "Yet if they are paying interest on a mortgage of £50,000 at the same time. they stand to lose out on a potential reduction of £10.41 if the rate cut is not passed on." Some smaller lenders, such as

Skipton has pledged that its Base Rate Tracker Mortgage will continue to fall as long as cuts in base rates continue. The Tracker loan, relaunched

last week, now guarantees a rate of no

However, Rowan Gormley, chief rate, currently standing at 5.25 per cent, with a further 1.25 per cent discount for the first 12 months.

Mark Smitheringale, the society's head of communications, says: "Every reduction in the bank base rate will be followed by ourselves on that particular product".

But Paul Duffin at the Halifax warns that borrowers in Skipton's Tracker will suffer if base rates should climb back to anything like their late-Eighties peak of over 15 per cent. They may benefit when base rates are low, he suggests, but should expect no relief from the pain when base rates climb again.

He adds: "When base rates have gone very high before, mortgages didn't follow them all the way up. We protected borrowers against that."

Skipton has yet to announce what more than 1.25 per cent above base

variable rate after the latest base-rate cut, but Mr Smitheringale says it is 'almost certain" that its current variable of 6.89 per cent will be reduced.

"Savers are being penalised. I think there comes a time when we have to try and maintain savers' rates to try and give people some kind of reasonable return from investing in building societies," he says.

Despite fears of falling rates for savers, the C&G's spokeswoman says: "We haven't moved any of our savings rates vet. We haven't decided whether we're going to make any reductions on them at all yet or whether we're just going to leave them be."

Mr Duffin says: "There will be a reduction for [Halifax] savers, but because we've only had a small cut on the borrowers' side, at least that allows us to moderate it. We'll be announcwill happen to its own standard ing that before the end of the month."

Liverpool Victoria

The benefits are mutual

Deal of the week

There will always be an insurer prepared to grab custom by offering cheap home insurance deals - but seldom as cheap as Liverpool Victoria.

Take this example: a two-storey terrace property in north London, on which virtually every single telephone-based insurer (Direct Line, Churchill, CGU Direct, Eagle Star Direct) all quoted between £312 and £390 for a rebuilding cost of £138,000. Liverpool Victoria. however, quoted £148. This, by the way, includes accidental damage. The downside is that two years down the line Liverpool Vic might not be so cheap. Meantime, you've saved more than 300 quid.

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monthly repayments. Yet, after a weekend of debate and discussion, a handful of the biggest lenders, making up perhaps 45 per cent of the market. have decided to shave their rates - by just 0.1 per cent on average.

Even more worrying are the increasingly loud assertions by lenders that, after several months of reductions, we appear to have come to the end of the

line for mortgage-rate cuts. We must concentrate on the rates paid to savers. since they outnumber our borrowers by a ratio of up to seven-to-one," is the message now coming from the likes of Abbey National, Halifax, Cheltenham &

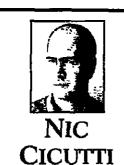
Gloucester and the rest. I would be far more prepared to believe this argument were it not for the fact that the seven-to-one argument is flawed.

A very large proportion of these accounts, several of which may be held by one saver, are effectively dormant, with no more than a few hundred pounds in them. The interest paid, of a few pounds a year at best. barely matters to typical savers in the grand scheme of things.

For example, £2,000 on which interest of 5 per cent gross is paid, would earn £80 a year after tax. Reducing the interest paid by 0.35 per cent produces a drop of £4 in annual income. Are we really expected to believe that millions of people would be prepared to drop a £120 annual cut on a typical £60,000 home loan for the sake of an extra £4 in their savings account?

Moreover, a number of banks and building societies have reduced their rates to many savers by more than the base-rate cuts made by the Bank of England since October last year.

In other words, some institutions are taking advantage of the nearcontinuous reductions in the



Some institutions are taking advantage of

base-rate cuts to bolster their profits

past six months to bolster their profit margins at the expense of savers initially. and now of borrowers too. Their behaviour stinks.

SAY WHAT you like about the Inland Revenue, but its staff do have a sense of humour. In March this year I finally paid my bill for the tax year 1997/98. But I was eight days over the final deadline by which a payment was needed to avoid a surcharge of 5 per cent on the total amount owed.

Therefore, in addition to about £75 in unpaid interest from 31 January, the Revenue also billed me an additional £250. A trifle unfair, I thought.

So I appealed - on the grounds that I was so griefstricken by the illness and subsequent death of my pet hamster, Snowy, in February that I was unable to think clearly and settle on time.

Today the reply from the Revenue's customer services manager (who would probably prefer to remain anonymous): "I am not prepared to accept your appeal despite the obvious and genuine trauma that this tragic event has caused.

"I know how upsetting it can be when a pet hamster 'falls asleep at the wheel' but would advise you that this outstanding amount should be paid now. My instincts as a pet lover tell me that Snowy would not like you to increase your indebtedness to the Inland Revenue because of his death."

Following such a genuinely sympathetic reply, will I pay up now or take my appeal to a higher stage? Watch this space.

A woman with six appeal

FINANCIAL MAKEOVER

NAME: ROSIE CATE AGE: 36 OCCUPATION: DESIGN CONSULTANT AND PARTITIME MA STUDENT

osie is a mature student who is set to finish college in June this year, when she will return to work. Aside from the challenges of taking up the reins of fulltime employment again, she has six immediate financial problems which need to be resolved.

Among them is the fact that while studying she has not paid national insurance contributions for the past year. Should she start paying now?

Her endowment provider. Eagle Star, has warned her that her policy may not be worth enough at maturity to pay off her mortgage. Should she top up her endowment or take out a new mortgage to reduce other payments? Finally, Rosie had a pension in the past, but she has none at present. Should she start one now?

The adviser: Philippa Gee, the managing director of Gee & Company, a fee-based independent financial advisers, at Foresters Hall, 1a Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury SY1 1UT (01743 236982)

The advice: With a few months of studying left, you have time to move your financial affairs on to a firmer foundation. However, you need a financial plan.

The first of six objectives is to organise your banking arrangements. Being self-employed, it is easy to get into the habit of operating one account for all expenses, vet it makes it hard to differentiate between what money should be reserved for business and what can be withdrawn for personal expenses. You need to set up two accounts,

one for business that will hold the majority of money and will transfer a fixed sum each month into a second, The second objective again con-

cerns cash, as you need to build up a float fund in case of emergencies. This should be done by taking sums occasionally out of the first account. as the business improves. I would recommend you open a

new "mini-ISA" account for the cash your borrowings. element to take these one-off sums. Basically, the mini-ISA allows you to invest up to £3,000 in this tax year (and £1,000 each year thereafter) into a cash account, with no tax payable



Rosie Cate: a design consultant with a six-point plan from a financial consultant

and Abbey National are currently 6.5 per cent (variable) and appear the most competitive. Not only will you 6.4 per cent, which puts a ceiling on rates have reduced considerably be benefiting from a decent interest rate, but with no tax liability, your money remains accessible.

The third objective is to sort out

Presently your mortgage amounts to around £300 a month. Rather than remortgage, which can be costly, I would suggest making use of a deal, through your current lender, for existing borrowers who are on ing which scheme to opt for.

Rates available from the Halifax variable rates and who face no penalties for switching.

your costs until April 2004. This has no arrangement fee and will currently save you around £30 a month. Another scheme offers a capped rate of 4.25 per cent until January years left I would say sit tight. 2001, saving around £110 a month. However, this costs £295 and will keep you locked into the variable scheme for five years. Consider how long you will keep the property before decid-

dowment policy might not repay the One scheme is a capped rate of - mortgage on maturity. Profit bonus and the recent performance of your contract has not been competitive. However, with your income limited at present and the policy having 17

You are concerned that the en-

Invest a monthly amount separately as a back-up to the endowment only when your income improves.

equities are not short-term invest-l ments and will fluctuate. The best starting point for you could be a large tracker fund, which follows move-ments in UK share prices and which has consistent past performance. such as that offered by Gartmore.

The fourth objective is to ensure you have adequate personal insurance. You have do not appear to have adequate life cover for the mortgage and although you have no depen-dents, you should still plug this gap.

Monthly costs for £7,000 term assurance over a 19-year period start at £5 per month. You already have income replacement cover in place for up to £500 per month, but will soon need higher levels of cover.

Your fourth objective is to contact the existing company to see if it will offer you "preferred rates" as a loyal customer, as to go elsewhere would cost approximately £50 per month. Critical illness cover, which would only pay out a hump sum in the event of a major illness, subject to policy conditions, should be considered. One such policy offered by Marks & Spencers would cost around £35 per month for £100,000 cover over a 20 year term.

Protection policies can be costly. However the business relies on you, and just as you would insure your car. you need to insure yourself. I would : defer decisions until you finish studying, to identify better the level of income the business produces. I would: suggest you build up the income replacement cover first and then consider other options.

The fifth objective is pension planning. You already have pension provision from previous employment. You want to give the business at least 12 months to see how it develops. If : during the year you have saved well, you could use part of the savings to nvest into a pension as a single sum to make up for the time you have not been paying in. If your business develops, it could itself be viewed as part of your retirement funds for you to sell on at a later date.

The sixth and final objective involves working closely with others advising you: talk to your accountant ! about your concerns over National Insurance, appoint an IFA and discuss business contracts with a solicitor. and write a will. With a sound finan-For this purpose, you could consider an equity-linked mini-ISA, alam MA qualification, you can conthough you need to remember that centrate on your career.

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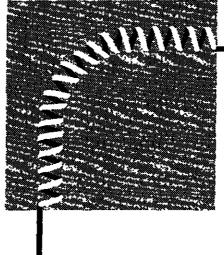
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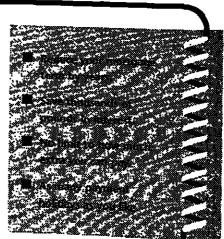
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rest loan for 25 years on a property valued at £2,000 at an interest rate of o 44% in, 25,488) (valuede) with the test monthly payment £4% 74 (grass) (including accrued interest), Followed by
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Small business? Think big

Venture capital trusts allow you to make the most of new businesses. By Rachel Fixsen

utting money into small businesses is notoriously risky, but those who have dared have sometimes made staggering returns. The trouble is, how can you pick the winners and avoid those destined to sink without trace? Investing in a venture capital trust (VCT) is one way to leave the decisions to the experts. VCTs were introduced four years ago as a way of providing capital finance for small expanding

Each VCT invests in a number of smaller companies - mostly existing companies or management buyouts, and some early stage companies. Some may include companies quoted on the alternative investment market (AIM), the "junior" stock exchange.

VCTs are high-risk, but the risk is spread. "The diversity of 20 or 30 unquoted companies severely limits the risk," says David Thorp of the British Venture Capital Association. Inland Revenue conditions state that no VCT holding in any company may represent more than 15 per cent of its investments.

Another safeguard is that the London Stock Exchange has to approve every VCT prospectus, so only the experienced can launch funds.

VCTs carry amazing tax perks Personal Equity Plans and Individual Savings Accounts may keep your investments free of tax, but the taxman actually pays you to invest in VCTs.

You can invest up to £100,000 each tax year in VCTs and you get tax relief of 20 per cent on your original investment. This means someone investing £10,000 will receive £2,000 in tax relief. A condition of this is that, unless the investor dies, the investment must be held for at least five years. If the shares are sold earlier then the relief must be repaid.

There is no tax to pay on any income paid out by VCTs to shareholders, and no restriction on how much income can be paid out. There is also no capital gains tax to pay on any gains made on the sale of shares.

Arguably the best tax advantage is that anyone with capital gains in the 2 months before or after the shares are issued in a VCT can roll this gain over into a VCT. If they do, then they can defer any capital gains tax payable, and with careful tax planning may be able to avoid it altogether.

This ability to defer capital gains means that 40 per cent of your infree loan from the government.

STOCKBROKER Charles Stanley

has revamped its online share

trading website, Xest, allowing



the investment.

"If you're only putting in 40 per cent, that does wonders for your rate of return - the VCT would only have to perform in a mediocre way to give a good overall return," says Martin Churchill of independent performance analysts the Allenbridge Group.

Tax breaks aside, is the underlying investment a good one? After all, if you

lose money you don't get tax-deductible losses, says Mr Churchill. Willie Stewart, a father of four who lives in Edinburgh, has invested twice in Northern Venture Trust and is

companies, but saw the Northern Venture Trust as a better option.

He says: "It's difficult to find good unquoted companies unless you put a fantastic amount of time and effort in." A VCT allows you to spread the risk of investing in unquoted companies while having experts source and

So far, the investment success of VCTs is hard to gauge because there is very little market for VCT shares once issued. No one wants to lose the tax relief so they hardly ever sell in the first five years, which means the

ed, there will be big profits, says Andrew Jones of independent financial advisers the David Aaron Partnership.

"You have to read the prospectus

VCTs now tend to fall into two hased on compan

LOOSE CHANGE

MUTUAL ONE is a company consisting of eight Midlands-based building societies, which have combined to launch a new three-year "stepped discount" mortgage.

"I think the generalist ones are

preferable to AIM, as I believe there

is more scope for high rates of return," says Mr Churchill. "Most venture

capitalists look to the AIM market as

an exit point rather than an invest-

ment entry point. They can also do

more in-depth due diligence on an un-

quoted company and be represented

Look at the size of the VCT and the

charges it makes. Some argue that a

smaller VCT will not be able to buy

enough holdings to spread its risk ad-

equately. Charges are higher than for

conventional investment trusts be-

cause of the large amount of work

have to have 70 per cent of funds in-

vested in qualifying companies with-

in three years of launch, and if they

are too slow, they might have to rush

fered, Mr Jones recommends Matrix

TriVen. It will be the largest VCT yet.

and it will be looking to raise £60 mil-

lion to invest in three different areas,

To share in the growth potential of

the technology sector, Mr Jones points

to the British Smaller Technology

Companies VCT run by Yorkshire

Allenbridge publishes Tax Shelter Report which rates VCTs according

to a number of factors. Of the gener-

al VCTs still open to investment,

Baronsmead VCT 2 gets the highest

rating, followed by Quester VCT 2 and

derstand the risks involved, and

should not simply see them as the next

investment after a PEP or ISA, ad-

visers say. However, there is no rea-

son why VCTs should only attract the

truly rich. "A younger person who's

willing to invest for the longer-term

could do very well indeed," says Mr

Jones. Typically, a minimum invest-

ment could be £2,000 to £3,000 he says.

British Venture Capital Association

has a list of VCTs seeking funds: 0171

240 3846: David Aaron Partnership

publishes a guide to VCTs: 01908 281

544; Allenbridge Group: 0171 409 1111

"The Independent" is offering a free

Guide to High Risk/High Reward

Investment, outlining the commonest

ways savers can get higher-than-

average returns, including venture

capital trusts. The guide, sponsored

от. www.tax-shelter-report.co.uk

Anyone investing in a VCT must un-

each with a separate manager.

Fund Managers.

Northern 2.

Of those VCTs currently being of-

into poorer investments later on.

"Deal flow" is important too. This

on the board," he says.

each investment involves.

This deal gives a 3 per cent discount on each society's own variable-rate mortgage in year one, a 2 per cent discount in the second year and 1 per cent in the final year.

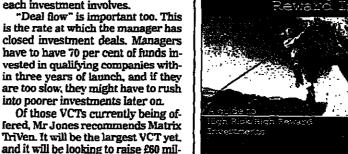
At present variable

rates, the cost of a loan, available up to 80 per cent of a property's value, is up to 3.94 per cent in year one. Because some societies' rates are lower, the amount payable in the first year could be less. There are no compulsory

insurances. The deal is available exclusively through FirstMortgage Direct. A £295 arrangement fee is payable. Call 0800 080020.

*THE INDEPENDENT THE INDEPENDENT

Your FREE guide to High Risk/High



This guide is about making high-risk investments with the aim of obtaining high rewards.



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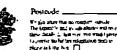
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would welcome details on The Equisable's pension plans. I am self empli I am employed and not eligible to join a company pension scheme. NAME (Mr Mrs Miss)



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VCTs invest in a range of small companies, including those running golf clubs

This, coupled with the tax relief. means the investor may only have to stump up 40 per cent of the value of

confident that his investment will

manage the deals, he says.

shares barely move.

Anyway, VCTs are definitely longterm investments. It takes years for the trust to become fully invested. The ing investments in small unquoted companies in the trust become quot- listed on AIM.

So how do you pick a VCT? Because

tax relief is only available if you invest in a VCT by subscribing for new shares, it only makes sense to buy shares at a new offering. Find out which VCTs are open for new investment. Try the BVCA or see Allenbridge's website (see contacts below).

carefully and look at the experience of the manager concerned," says Andrew Jones. "Some of the managers do have quite long track records."

categories - the generalists, which invest in unquoted companies, and the

> an electronic newsletter. site it kept crashing, offering

able by calling 0845 2711003

managing director of EMAR will "assist in untangling the

He adds: "The Web has a vast array of investment resources for the investor, and most of them are free or relatively inexpensive. The problem is that they are scattered and often difficult to find."

www.redm.co.uk UK Online Investing: www.ukonlineinvesting.com Robin can be reached at RobinAmlot & aol.com

clients to buy and sell gilts and equities online. Xest now also offers more background information and analysis. You may register online but you are required to have Crestsponsored membership and money

on deposit before you deal. Xest's trading facility is not yet automatic - you send buy and sell orders to the dealing room at Charles Stanley via secure e-mail. However, the company is developing a direct link to the stock market's Retail Service Providers and expects to have its own automatic electronic trading service available for clients before the end of the year. In the meantime, the trading service is

based share dealing. Before the electronic facility is

other add-ons available. Within the next couple of weeks, the broker says, statements and portfolio valuations will be available online. Other developments on the way include an online Individual Savings Account and the facility to trade on European markets. Xest's basic dealing charge is a

flat £20 fee for trades up to £50,000 but the European service, when available, will likely be more costly. The group of stockbrokers

offering internet share-dealing facilities will shortly be joined by what was originally the UK's first independent stockbroker on the internet, Leeds-based Redmayne-Bentley. The broker's new website is offering £1,000 worth of free shares to be won to celebrate the launch of REDM, its online sharedealing service.

All you have to do is pre-register comparable in speed to telephonewith REDM by completing an application form. You will then be notified by e-mail when the up and running, Xest will have



INVESTOR ROBIN AMLÔT

broking service is operational. A prize draw entry form will be e-mailed to you asking a simple multiple-choice question about the FTSE 100, and the winner will be the first correct entry selected at random on 31 July 1999.

REDM says it will offer a free company news and share price service to all those people who

have pre-registered and, once the service is up and running, you may establish an online trading account in return for a quarterly subscription fee of £15. Anybody setting up a trading

account before 30 June 1999 will also be eligible to enter the REDM prize draw. The £1,000 worth of free shares will be in a FTSE 100 company of the winner's choice. A new site has been established

for online investors seeking relevant information sources and annotated links on investing in UK quoted shares. UK Online Investing, from EMAR Publishers, aims to guide you to relevant web sites telling you how to do your own research. prepare your own stock analyses, select and monitor your own UK quoted investments and act as your own broker.

The site also promises to provide an online investing report which will be updated regularly and downloaded to subscribers as

Unfortunately, when I viewed the software error messages. Once these bugs have been ironed out it should be a useful additional information source for anybody investing via the internet. Steven Dotsch, the founder and

Publishers, claims that his website financial web".

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LOOSE CHANGE

FAMILY ASSURANCE Friendly Society has combined with Bounty, a mothers' support service. to launch a Green ISA, investing in companies that meet strict ethical criteria. Minimum investment is £35 a month or a £350 lump sum. All investors will receive a wildflower seed mat. Call 0800 590084.

0181 667 1121

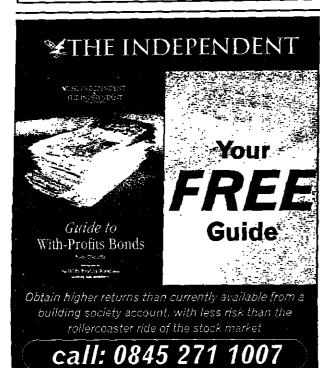
BRISTOL & WEST is launching a five-year fixed-rate bond on 21 April, paying 5.7 per cent gross. A monthly income option is available, paying 5.02 per cent gross. No access is allowed in the five-year term. Minimum investment is £5,000 or a maximum of £5,000. Call 0800 202121.

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ISA lolly not always sweet

TESSA FEVER may already be a fading memory, but savers should be queuing to open a cash ISA rather then leave money in a lowpaying deposit account.

The cash ISA has effectively replaced the Tessa, although savers cannot keep quite so much from the taxman. The Chancellor is allowing savers to put up to £3,000 in a cash ISA this tax year but only £1,000 in subsequent years.

The cash ISA is the first new product in years from National Savings - the Government bank - but its interest rate of 5.75 per cent on £10 does not match offerings from banks and building societies.

In fact, loyal customers of financial institutions are being offered the best deals. Anyone who has been with the Coventry Building Society for at least flexibility than Tessas, five years, for instance, can get 6.5 per cent on a balance of just £1. And it guarantees to pay 1 per cent over the bank base rate for two years on its Privilege ISA.

Newer customers however, are offered the much less attractive Square Deal ISA, which pays just 5 per cent.

Others are playing the same loyalty card. Nationwide's Members ISA Bond is offering a similar guarantee to the Coventry and is paying 6.5 per cent at oresent. But anyone who hasn't been with the Nationwide for three years will have to settle for the standard ISA with the 1 per cent-over-base guarantee lasting until October.

Other providers are paying bonuses. Abbey National and Safeway, for instance, are offering a 0.5 per cent bonus payable in January while the Yorkshire building society is paying out a 0.5 per cent bonus in October.

But such offers are questionable, say competitors, as the bonuses may simply be

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designed to help catapult the companies to the top of the best buy tables, in order to attract new customers in the first

crucial months of the ISA. "We understand that people's needs change and so products which come with golden handcuffs. may not offer best value, says Chris Cummings, of Sun Bank, "In fact we believe these golden handcuff bonuses are against the spirit, if not the

letter, of CAT standards." The CAT standard likely to crop up often with ISAs stands for charges. access and terms. "The CAT provides a benchmark for investors. They will be able to tell that their ISA has reached certain standards." says David

Outhwaite, of NatWest. Instant accessibility means ISAs offer more where cash had to be locked away for five years. However, many ISAs are demanding 30 days notice or allowing just one or two withdrawals a year.

Some product providers are refusing to issue an ISA. Sainsbury's Bank, for instance, says they are too complicated.

When you throw CAT standards into the mix, the picture becomes even less clear as they may make ISAs less competitive.

If you are planning to have an investment ISA as well, it may be tempting simply to take the cash element offered. This could, however, be a mistake, according to Jenni Stott, of Marks & Spencer Financial Services. "Many high street names and fund managers may offer a cash ISA to lure savers without a competitive rate of interest." she warns. SIMON READ

You can compare ISAs on the Internet at urow.moneyextra.com - a free independent personal finance website

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MSP - Mortgage indemnity premium N - Introductory rate for a limited period U - Unemployment resultance

B - Withdrawats via Bank Cleaning System

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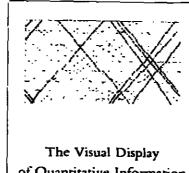
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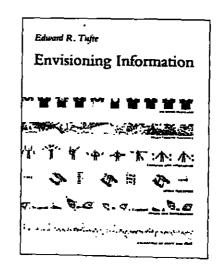
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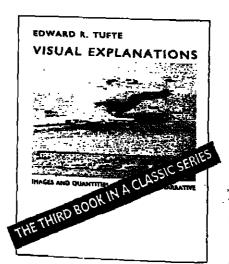


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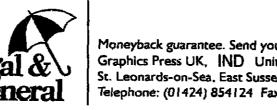


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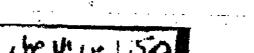
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Class: have you got it?

Management of investment 'classes' is the key to a lucrative with-profits fund. By Nic Cicutti

pects it to provide a mixture of decent returns on their cash. coupled with a relatively high degree of security to ensure that their money doesn't go down the tubes.

The exact mechanism that delivers this combination of some safety with out-performance when compared to a building society account is usually a mystery to most investors.

In fact, the way with-profits fund managers achieve this is by means of quite tightly-defined asset allocation between different types of investment "class". The main types are equities, property, fixed interest securities such as bonds or gilts, and cash.

How do these various asset classes work in relation to each other? Martin Brown, operations director at the With-Profits Bond Shop, which specialises in these policies, explains: "The starting point is that equities have a tendency to out-perform other asset classes over the long term. In effect, they are there to provide the growth in the value of a bond. At the same time, there will also be a requirement for a relatively stable income stream.

"Until recently, yields from equities could have provided some of this, but they have fallen significantly of late, which partly determines the extent to which a with-profits fund might invest in fixed-interest securities."

Michael Hayden, savings and investment director at Legal & General, a leading with-profits bond provider, adds: "Fixed interest securities will provide an income stream combined with security.

"If you hold a bond to maturity you will get your money back, always assuming that the company whose bond it is stays around."

Cash is a similar type of holding to securities, delivering its own minor yield within a fund.

Property is another important asset class, says Mr Hayden, "It is a mix of the two classes in risk terms," he says. "Primarily it involves investment in commercial properties. The income stream from the property rental provides an element of security and hopefully the increase in the value of the property over time will provide additional capital returns."

Given that there is an interrelationship between these three main asset classes, in what proportion are they held, and why?

A glance at the table on this page shows that generally equity holdings

nyone investing in a will vary between 60 and 70 per cent. with-profits fund ex- with one or two exceptions. Property will vary between 10 and 12 per cent. on average, while fixed interest holdings range between 17 and 25 per cent, again on average.

What determines this mix, says Mr Hayden, is a combination of factors. One of them is whatever guarantee may have been given to the investors by the with profits bond provider. The greater the guarantee, the more likely that company's fund manager will be required to meet it by investing in

fixed-interest securities. "We invest in assets that match our liabilities. Their nature will determine the investment strategy," he adds. "For example, if we were giving investors a certain guarantee, say of 5 per cent yield, we would invest in a greater proportion of fixed interest securities. So to some extent we are dri-

ven by investor expectations." Aside from investors' own needs, requirements by Government regulators that a with-profits fund has enough assets to cover its own liabilities and policyholders' reasonable expectations will also determine the proportion of each asset class.

Generally, a fund with a high level of "free assets", over and above those required to meet the criteria set by regulators, will be able to invest more highly in equities.

intermediary sales director at Prudential - whose Prudence fund has sold some £7bn since its launch in 1991 - says: "Our ratio is about 60 per cent in UK equities and 15.4 per cent in international ones, with 13 per cent in property and 10.1 per cent in fixed interest securities.

"We are able to invest in this way because we have a higher proportion of free assets than many other funds. The point to remember is that withprofits bonds are a smoothed managed fund. Capital growth comes from the equity element of the fund. Distribution bonds are more geared to income and they will contain a different mixture of fixed interest securities relative to equities."

How are various asset classes determined on a day-by-day basis? Michael Hayden says: "The actuaries set the guidelines. They know what the liabilities of a fund will be and they will construct a portfolio to reflect that. An actuary might say we need a core of perhaps 25 per cent in fixed interest securities, or 15 per cent in property on the basis of, perhaps, plus or minus five. The fund manager will then manage the fund on that basis.

"In practice, it is not just a question



For example, as Chris Robinson, of setting parameters for an asset held monthly to determine whether homework-and asset allocation is one bond must be of not less than A-plus are being met.

> All of Legal & General's fund managers will be involved in the investment process, selecting equity or securities on the basis of the actuar-

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Eagle Star	55	10	65	20	15	·· ••••
Equitable Life	46	14	60	7	27	6
Friends Provident	44	16	60	10	28	2
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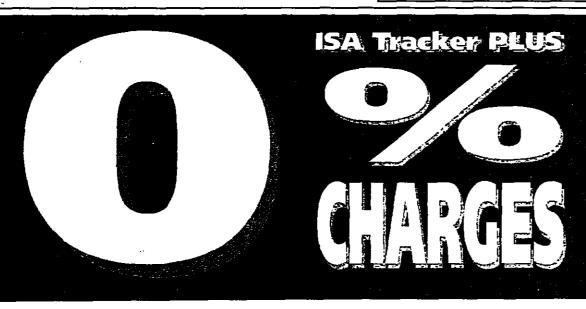
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THE INDEPENDENT

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WHEN IS a mortgage indemnity premium (MIP) not a mortgage indemnity premium? This is the question being asked by hundreds of thousands of would-be borrowers, who face a new variant of this hidden charge. levied on those who need to borrow a relatively high proportion of a home's value.

Experts are warning this week that some lenders including Bradford & Bingley have found other ways of charging extra for people who

want to borrow high amounts. MIPs typically require the borrower to pay up to £1,500 to indemnify the lender against a fall in house prices should the property be repossessed. However, they offer no protection to borrowers themselves.

Indeed, while lenders use the premium to insure their security against a house price fall, their insurers are still free to pursue borrowers for a chunk of the price drop.

Following a campaign mounted by consumer groups, Halifax said in February last vear it would charge no MIP where the loan was 90 per cent or less of a home's value. Other lenders have since followed that lead. But most still insist on a MIP for loans over 90 per cent.

Meanwhile, mortgage experts are now questioning whether consumers are really much better off even though MIPs have been abolished. Ray Boulger, of the specialist mortgage brokers John Charcol, says: "Some lenders are effectively just charging a higher rate instead of the premium. What they give with one hand can be taken away with another."

Last year, Bradford & Bingley, the building society facing a vote to convert it to a bank, scrapped its own version of the MIP for all loans. Instead of demanding a MIP from borrowers, it is imposing risk "loadings" – an extra 0.25 to 0.5 per cent on its rates. Analysis carried out by

MoneuFacts, a guide to investment and mortgage rates, shows that, in some cases, borrowers may end up

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paying as much for the riskloading as they did for the MIP. A borrower taking out a

£95,000 mortgage with B&B, on a property worth £100,000, would in the past have paid a MIP at 8.6 per cent of the value of the loan. But that MIP only applied to a fraction of the loan (the amount between £75,000 and £95,000). In this case, the cost would be 8.6 per cent of £20,000, or £1,720.

Now. they will instead pay a "risk loading" of 0.5 per cent, for the first five years, on the whole loan. Rather than paying £1,720, this borrower would pay £2.375 over five years.

Ironically, B&B's changes can mean that when the risk of negative equity is lower, the new system looks even worse. A loan of £85,000 on a £100,000 house would give rise to a MIP costing £500 on the old MIP system. On the new system, an extra 0.25 points will be added to the rates for the whole loan. The cost in extra interest is £1,062.50 - more than double the old amount.

B&B points out that in the past most borrowers, unable to pay a lump sum for the MIP when they bought the house, added it to the loan. This meant the final was higher. It also says the MoneuFacts comparison is flawed because risk loading could also be imposed in the past.

The situation can be even worse for people who borrow more than 90 per cent of the property value. The abolition of MIPs on loans up to 90 per cent creates a nasty quirk which acts as a strong disincentive to borrow more.

A buyer of a £100,000 property would pay very heavily for borrowing £91,000, rather than £90,000. On a fiveyear fixed-rate deal with the Alliance & Leicester, the borrower not only pays a higher rate (6.25 rather than 5.95 per cent - an extra £1,300) - over the first five years. The borrower also pays a MIP not just on the extra £1,000 borrowed, but on everything over 75 per cent (£1,200 in this case). The total cost of borrowing that extra £1,000? More than £2.500.

ANDREW VERITY

Plight of the Time to play equity card

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Cashing in on the value of your home can lead to a happy old age. But take care. By James Moore

roperty-rich, but income-poor. This is the fate of an increasing number of elderly people who reach retirement age as owners of substantial homes. However, at the same time, inadequate financial planning, or some other mishap, means that they have very little money to live on.

Using the equity in your home to raise cash is one traditional method of boosting income. However, the National Consumer Council (NCC) last week warned that serious gaps in financial regulation could lead to disaster for vulnerable pensioners who try this tactic.

Equity-release plans, as they are known, involve taking a mortgage out on a home to provide an income or cash, usually to make life more comfortable for retired people.

In the late Eighties, plans linked to risky investments backfired disastrously, leading to situations in which many people faced the prospect of losing their homes.

Such plans are now banned. In the past year or so, some financial companies have become increasingly interested in marketing equity release, with household names such as Norwich Union and Northern Rock entering the fray. Yet plans currently on the market are complicated and require expert financial and legal advice

In any event, the NCC, which was set up and largely funded by the Government, says the rules governing today's "safe" equityrelease plans remain flawed.

The NCC says equity release could provide real benefits for elderly people. But it identifies a range of bodies and laws covering the plans and says this gives consumers "the worst of all worlds - partial regulation which restricts availability and hinders innovation without providing proper protection in return".

Indeed, the type of plan that the NCC report identifies as "offering perhaps the most certainty of all the schemes the decision of available" has been killed off by Chancellor Gordon Brown's to axe mortgage interest relief (Miras). These plans involved elderly

people taking mortgages out to buy a small life annuity which paid the interest and provided a small income. An alternative scheme involves signing away part or all of a

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Old people must make sure they are not taken for a ride

return for an annuity or a lump sum. The company operating the plan expects to make its money when the home is sold outright, either on death or upon entry into residential care. Providers include Stalwart Assurance, Carlisle Life, Home &

Capital and BPT Home Reversions. Another type of plan involves taking out a fixed-rate mortgage on a percentage of the value of a home. The interest rolls up and both the capital and the interest are, once more, paid off when the house is finally sold outright.

Both Norwich Union, with its Capital Access Plan. and Northern Rock, with its Home Equity Release Mortgage, offer variations on this theme, but while Northern Rock charges interest on the loan at 7.29 per cent, NU charges interest on the entire value of the home at 2.95 per

Finally, shared appreciation mortgages, available from the Bank of Scotland and Barclays, offer an interest-free loan of up to 25 per cent of a house's value.

In return, up to three-quarters of any increase in the home's value is taken by the loan provider when the loan is repaid. Unfortunately these schemes.

currently unavailable, are generally offered for a limited period and so far, unlike the other schemes, none have yet contained provisions to enable people to move house.

There are a number of variations on these themes, including schemes specifically set up to fund home improvements or even care costs. and those run by local authorities and by charities.

Unlike some of the Eighties plans, most of the modern equity-release home to an insurance company, in cent, making comparisons difficult. schemes carry guarantees which if they want to move or face losing 0181-390 8166

should mean that, whatever happens, people who take them out should not lose their homes and can continue to live in them for the rest.

of their lives.

Regulatory problems crop up because, depending on how plans are set up, they can be governed by statutory bodies, such as the Financial Services Authority, or voluntary ones, such as the Council of Mortgage Lenders' code of practice. In some cases, the plans are monitored by the Safe Home Income Plans group (Ship), an industry trade association, leading to the

The NCC also warns that, by exploiting gaps in this system, companies could still market products that might leave elderly people in setheir homes if things go wrong.

Even "safe" products could have a nasty sting in the tail if they are taken out by someone for whom they are not suitable. Tax rates and Government benefits can be affected by any increase in income, or even the

provision of a lump sum. Benefits such as pensioners' income support and council tax benefit can be hit by any extra income or even lump sums. Moving from non-tax-paying to tax-paying status, or going up a tax band, can also eat into any gains made by buying into an equity-release scheme.

Age Concern spokeswoman Rhian Beynon says: "We have never endorsed any such plan. They may be suitable for some people but not for others.

"We offer a fact sheet explaining about them. People need to be very careful that any income generated does not affect any existing benefit they are entitled to."

Sue Mercer, the office and technical manager at Hinton & Wild, an independent financial advice firm specialising in equity-release schemes, says: "The best plan depends on a person's circumstances but it is important to make sure you are significantly better off before going ahead."

It seems unlikely that the type of disaster which befell people in the late Eighties will be able to occur again, especially after the Government outlawed the risky schemes which caused it.

But the NCC report concludes: "Equity-release schemes could benefit the very poorest and elderly people (as well as others) but only if they are properly regulated and managed, and detailed information and advice about them is available to consumers.

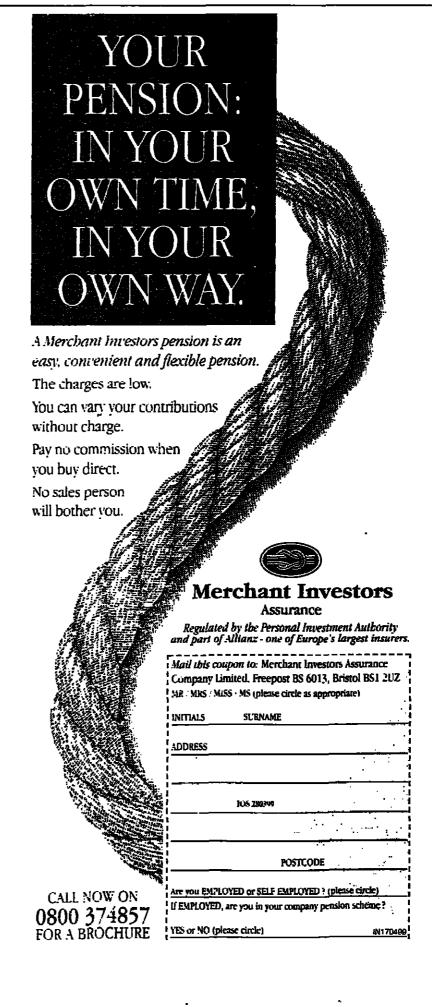
"Therefore we think the Government should encourage wider availability of equity-release schemes, but not without first taking steps to regulate for safer selling and much better information and advice for prospective purchasers."

Age Concern's free fact sheet titled "Raising Capital on Your Home" is available by calling 0800 009966; for problems that are identified by the a Help the Aged fact sheet on equityrelease contact Esther Ellmann on 0171-253 0253 ex 257; for a list of Ship members and a free leaflet write to The Secretary, Safe Home Income Plans, Tolworth Tower, Ewell Road, vere difficulties. They could be stuck Surbiton, KT6 7EL; Hinton & Wild:



"Source: Scottish Friendly. Based on a man aged 30 next birthday at outset saving C25 per month in a plan similar to the Scotish Bond Figures shown are base, on a Scottish Friendly 10 year with profits endowment policy maturing on 1.5.98. Future bonus rates, surrender values and maturity values are not guaranteed in advance. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

*Based on Scottish Friendly's understanding of taxation which may change.



A Grand time with the Cherokee 60

It's the best Jeep money can buy - and the great news is it's available here in right-hand drive. By John Sımister

teeth it's got! All the better managed. to intimidate my dear. I don't suppose the Cherokee Indians have a version of Little Red Riding Hood and the wolf, but the car that bears their because of their relaxed mode of name has a very dental visage. progress and the fine view they Here, then, in full toothiness, is Jeep's all-new Grand Cherokee.

You would think that replacing the smaller, squarer Jeep Cherokee would be a more pressing need, but

¥THE INDEPENDENT

ROAD TEST

that one is still selling vigorously after 16 years. The competition is hotter higher up the 4x4 hierarchy.

There's Land Rover's remodelled Discovery to consider, and Mercedes-Benz's ML320. Add to this the fact that the old Grand Cherokee was launched in 1993, even though it didn't head here for another three years, and the prod-uct plan makes sense.

Clearly, the new car's style is influenced by the old, so much so that unless you see them together you might not spot the differences. But the new one has a wedgier profile. more rounded corners, bigger headlights and those bared fangs. This is not a discreet face, especially a high-range/low-range lever. when it's filling the rear-view mirror of the car in front.

It's a major remake. Just 127 parts of this Austrian-built car are carried over from the old model, of up a mountain stream, albeit with which the largest is the oil filter used on the smaller of the two available engines, a 4.0-litre straight-six.

That engine is similar to the older model's, but the V8 alternative is a new much more modern unit

TEL: 0171 293 2222

whose 4.7 litres produce more muscle-power than the old V8's 5.2 litres

Now, you might think that all fat off-roaders are instruments of the devil. But quite apart from an ability to clamber over rocks, through mud and across sand dunes, many off-roaders are favoured transport give of the world beyond hedges. Here, the Grand Cherokee scores on every count.

The off-road part of its repertoire $% \left\{ \mathbf{r}^{\prime}\right\} =\mathbf{r}^{\prime}$ is helped by a quadra-drive system boosted by a quadra-trac II transfer case which sends its power to front and rear Vari-Lok differentials. Look behind the buzz-names, and we find a clever design which automatically sends power to the wheels with the most grip.

Most of the time, whether on or off-road, most power goes to the rear wheels. If one rear wheel starts to slither, the resultant overall speed of the rear axle becomes higher than at the front, and this speed difference causes an adjustable-pressure clutch to divert power towards the front wheels.

Similar clutches, controlled by similar hydraulic pumps, work across each axle to send power to the side with the most grip. It's all automatic, and effective enough to keep the Jeep going even if only one wheel has grip. The only trans-mission control, apart from a conventional automatic gear-selector is

So effective is it that, as with a really good braking system, you don't notice it's there. I took a 4.0litre Grand Cherokee off-roading properly chunky off-road tyres, and - well, it just went up the stream. The only snag was the over-sensitive accelerator, which made for jerky progress over bumps as my right

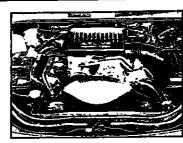


In many ways, though, the bigger engineering challenge is to make an off-roader feel good on-road. This the Grand does, thanks to a ride which feels remarkably flat and controlled for a car so high off the ground. and whose suspension is capable of such extremes of movement.

It filters bumps right away, too, so the ride is quiet and smooth. Just as good, the steering is positive in a way a 4x4's often isn't, so you don't get the feeling that you're tacking into a cross-current to take up the slack.

This quiet. relaxed motion suits the interior's ambience, which uses real leather and not-so-real wood to set the tone. The plastics feel less plasticky than before, and the independent heater controls for the cabin's left and right sides use infrared detectors to measure each front occupant's radiated heat.

I've left the best bit to the end. Well, it's the best bit if we're talking about the V8. for the six-cylinder is merely adequately smooth and lively, and suffers from an irritatingly



indecisive automatic transmission. The V8 is another experience entirely, surely worth the extra 25,000 purchase price and the paltry 1.2mpg average economy penal-

ty now that, unlike the old V& you

Limited

wheel drive

8.1sec, 13-18mpg

don't have to suffer left-hand drive. Squeeze the accelerator floorwards - and feel the Jeep squirm a little and launch itself into the distance with the cleanest and crackliest of V8 throbbing noises, and vou'll be starting a serious addiction. It's a civilised hot-rod, and it feels indomitable

All the better to eat the road with,



Meaner and more powerful than its predecessor, the new Jeep Grand Cherokee squares up confidently to its rivals in the 4x4 market

SPECIFICATIONS RIVALS

Make and model: Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.7 V8 Land Rover Discovery 4.0 Price: £34,995 Engine: 4,701cc V8, 16 valves. 217bhp at 4,700rpm Transmission: four-speed automatic gearbox, four-Performance: 122mph. 0-60 in

V81 ES: £35,070. Poshest Discovery matches Jeep's plushness but not its pace. Clever no-lean suspension makes for surprising agility Mercedes-Benz ML320: £31,780. Less powerful than Jeep, and only six cylinders, but this Mercedes is delightful to

drive. Cabin feels cheap, though Made in US Mitsubishi Shogan 3.5 V6:

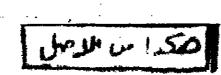
£39,995. Top Shogun has all the equipment but not much of the style. It's very capable off-road, though

Toyota Landcruiser Colorado 3.4 VX: £34,440. Same story as with the Shogun. The Jeep is a far more desirable proposition

MOTORING

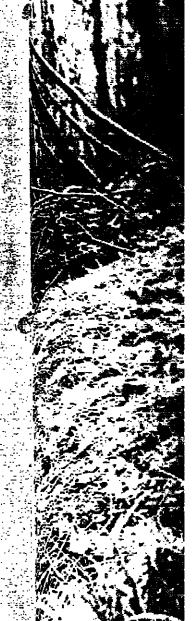
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PROPERTY

Go back to your roots

Want a break from the rat race? Then how about becoming a landowner. By Fiona Brandhorst



Four-year-old Eve O'Brien prepares to feed the fairies in the wood her parents bought and named after her

Chris Eades

equent trips down the A21 from London Kent led the O'Brien family to make an unusual addition to their propber on their mobile, expecting to find the cost way beyond their reach.

But, after visiting on an open day, they were hooked. "It was a case of want, want, want," remembers Carol, who was pleased to find that the other owners they met were not snotty aristocrats".

The O'Briens' land comprises 11 acres of broadleaved woodland surrounding one acre of south-facing grassland with an open view, and it cost just over £14,000. Were they nervous about their investment? "Tve always had a bee in my bonnet about our daughter, Eve, growing up in a central London maisonette without a garden," says Carol.

"To upgrade to an address near us with a garden would cost a lot pore. If we can't have a garden, why ot a wood where we can learn about nature together? It sounds like a cliché, but it's our wonderful little

haven of tranquillity." The O'Briens took out a personfirst time the bank had lent on woodland, and they were very interested in the idea; even my solicitor had never come across it, but it was a fairly routine process."

They try to visit every weekend; erty portfolio just but can you maintain woodland on over a year ago. Intrigued by boards a part-time basis? English Nature advertising woodlands for sale, Carol and Nigel called up the num-been beloful, and the O'Briens made contact with locals and other woodland owners who help with jobs such as coppicing (in return for the

timber) or making paths. "There's a great support system, we've learnt so much aiready." says Carol, who keeps a diary of the easonal changes in the wood so as not to miss out on anything from year to year. "The bluebells should be out in a few weeks, and they really

are breathtaking." Split ownership of land has meant that hunts have to gain permission from more people to cross their land. It is also a chance for anti-hunting supporters to really have some say. Carol had a phone call from the leader of a hunt wanting to cross her wood. "He was very courteous," she says, "but I had no her tation in refusing him permission."

Over the past 50 years, half of Britain's broadleaved woodlands have disappeared and been replaced by conifer plantations, agriculture

of Dutch elm disease has also contributed to the decline.

The O'Briens bought their wood from Woodlands For Sale, started by Angus Hanton in 1988 when the "great storm" was still fresh in people's minds. He was looking for a small wood to buy for his family's enjoyment but ended up buying 100 acres of woodland in Kent with a view to selling lots on to others.

"Having found it difficult to find a wood ourselves, we wanted to try

'If we can't have a house with a garden, why not a wood where we can learn about nature together?'

to make it easier for other family buyers," says Mr Hanton, whose company now has about 1,000 acres of woodland for sale in Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Cornwall, Devon and west Wales. "It's not a cash-generating business," he adds. "It's our policy to give people more choice.

Any profits are reinvested." In this way Mr Hanton and his comanager Richard Scholfield are able to justify carrying out some work on the woods before selling al loan to buy their wood. "It was the and other developments. The spread them on. "We cut paths and clear

fallen trees to give people a better idea." He stresses that you don't need any specialist knowledge. Being "enthusiastic, open-minded and taking the many sources of free advice" is a good start.

Buying woodland is, however, not a money-spinning investment. Planning laws restrict the use of woodlimited to 28 days a year, as is clay pigeon shooting. The only buildings permitted - for storing tools and

timber – are size-restricted. Typical woodland owners are a couple with young children buying to have some fun on their own piece of land where the children can really be at home and where they can do their bit for conservation. "It's an alternative to an extension on their house or a new car," says Mr Hanton, whose own parents bought their first woodland more than 40 years ago. "It's not just a feeling of ownership, it's the flexibility - plant-

ering around the camp fire." Most of Woodlands For Sale's lots are from six to 15 acres and cost from £15.000, the most popular being within a two-hour drive of London.

ing trees, creating paths and gath-

Stags, the West Country-based estate agent, also has a number of woods for sale, including Woodcroft Copse, a small woodland in an area Honiton, in east Devon, It covers less than an acre alongside a quiet lane and including frontage to the river Wolf Shooting and hunting rights are included in the guide price of £5,000. David Fursdon, of Stags, believes

owning woods is a "romantic thing". "People want woods for differentreasons: walking, painting, birdcoal Small woods up to 20 acres should hold their value."

For a more community-based idea, The Woodland Trust's campaign Woods on Your Doorstep has created 120 areas of woodland since its launch last year.

There is still time for members of the public to suggest sites from one to 20 acres within walking distance of where people live. If suitable, they will be purchased by the trust with the help of a £6.5m grant from the Millennium Commission, although local fundraising is expected to

meet half the cost of the wood. The O'Briens have renamed their wood Eve Wood, to the delight of their four-year-old daughter who leaves buns and sweets for the woodland fairies. Carol is constantly making new discoveries. "Our wood is big enough to be interesting but not too big to be unmanageable."

Woodlands For Sale: 01435 883360. of outstanding natural beauty near www.woodlands.co.uk; English

A tender moment – but money matters can turn things nasty if

Gay owners told to put it in writing

Documenting who owns what can save much heartache - and money - if the couple later part. By Robert Liebman

among lesbians begins with the question: what does a lesbian do on the second date? Answer:

But moving into someone else's home, or buying a property together, involves moving into someone's life. Stakes are high both emotionally and financially, yet often the money side of things is poorly documented or not formalised at all.

Judith Burton, a solicitor whose firm has a large number of gay and lesbian clients, recalls a couple who bought a property in the Eighties as joint tenants. which meant that they owned it equally even though one of the two had paid 90 per cent of the pur-

They had a bitter split a few contributed less insisted on receiving her half-share of the property value. "It went to court, and the original owner had to settle because her former partner was legally aided. They settled at 40 per cent. It took years to resoive and was very costly."

Another woman bought a property for herself and for her part-. ner as tenants in common, an arrangement in which the ownership can be in unequal shares – 90/10, for example, or 60/40 – and which can be declared in writing.

"This couple did not specify the ownership percentages, and, after vided most of the money was the one who moved out," says Ms Burton, And, although she was no longer living there, "she was afraid of her home being repossessed, so she is still paying the mortgage".

the one who finds herself exploited, or who feels ill-used, especially if she is upwardly mobile.

ners make formal arrangements in which one contributes less than the other, and owns correspondingly that much less.

"Over the years her income increases, and she starts to contribute more, but they don't modify their original agreement to take account of the higher payments. If they split up, the agreement still records her as owning less than should be the case," says Anya Palmer of the Stonewall Housing Association.

In Ms Burton's view, many couples almost invite later trauma by neglecting to make clear arrangements at the outset, "And these situations are not unique to lesbians. They also apply to gay men and to heterosexual nonmarried couples.

"The main issues when lesbians are buying or living together involve the right of occupation, the right to inherit and the division of net proceeds in the event of a split, or the death of one of them.

"If the couple were married, both would automatically have rights to occupy and inherit. Because lesbians are not and cannot be legally married, if the owner decides to throw her partner out, the partner has no automatic right to occupation," says Ms Burton.

Although frank discussions of Judith Burton & Co solicitors:

ONE IN a cluster of jokes familiar beginning of a new relationship, clarity at the outset can ward off ugly disputes later.

When Ms Burton acts for the purchaser, "at the time of purchase, I ask: 'Do you want your partner to have a right under a contract, or declaration of trust. or a deed to give her the right to occupy?' We can draw up a deed protecting her, or you can leave it up to trust law to intervene and say whether or not she has a right to occupy the property at the appropriate time".

Leaving things to chance can be problematic. For example, if one of the partners in a tenancy in common were to die, "even if her partner has the right to occupy the property, in theory she could suddenly be occupying the property with her partner's partremely unlikely, "but the parents

'When one couple split up, the one who paid most of the money was the one forced to move'

or trustee could force a sale by obtaining a declaration from the court that the property should be sold," says Ms Burton.

A comprehensive range of isthey split up, the one who had pro- sues needs to be taken into account. Ms Burton advises lesbians, whether buying together or moving in to a property owned by a new partner, to put key decisions in writing. "You can spell out 'outgoings'

not just the mortgage but also The less well-off partner can be the cost of repairs to the property, bills for gas and electricity and water and structural alterations. If one partner wants to leave, does Not uncommonly, lesbian part- the other have the option to buy out the share, and in what timeframe?" She also suggests that, to avoid costly solicitors' fees, the partners agree to settle disputes by arbitration.

Craig Lind, a lecturer in law at the University of Wales at Aberys-twyth, says: "People in gay relationships often incorrectly assume that, because the law does not recognise their relationships, they can't acquire rights in each other's property."

He notes that "a lesbian can acquire an equitable share in property amounting to shared ownership by, for example, paying some household expenses if those payments enable her partner to pay the mortgage. Some people even contribute mortgage payments but tend to think of it as rent and of themselves as lodgers, but with no rights."

Another problem area arises when couples present themselves just as housemates and attempt to conceal the romantic side of their relationship.

"Couples really should 'come out, at least to their solicitors," advises Ms Burton. "Otherwise they may be wrongly advised. That is partly why we are now seeing a lot of cases - these are people who have received the wrong advice in the past."

money matters are not easy for 0171-491 0048; Stonewall: 0171-359 many people, especially at the 5767; Craig Lind; 01970 62 2731

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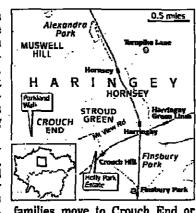
Stroud Green is a residential enclave surrounded by Finsbury Park, Holloway, Crouch End, Hornsey and Harringay. The station at Finsbury Park serves two Underground lines (Piccadilly and Victoria) and two distinct rail lines: one provides direct connections to the City, and the other is a main line linking Kings Cross to Cambridge and other north-east destinations. The bus terminal at Finsbury Park connects with bus routes which fan out in all directions.

Most sections of Stroud Green involve a train and bus journey, but the bus service is frequent, and the area is fairly convenient for the City and West End. It is consequently attracting spillover from Islington and immediate neighbour Crouch End.

The area's many period houses have mostly been converted, but a significant number remain intact, including five-bedroom and the occasional six-bedroom property. Stroud Green thus attracts growing families as well as singles and childless couples.

The streets on and near Mount View Road are the most sought-after and the most expensive, with prices topping £400,000. Prices drop precipitously on other roads. Three-bedroom houses in reasonable condition are available for less than £150,000. Decent two-bedroom flats in period conversions on attractive streets sell for less than £100,000, and ex-council and studio flats in converted houses sell for less than £50,000.

"Stroud Green is getting city professionals with children, who decide that, instead of a flat or small house in Islington, it is worth going a half-mile north for a character three- or fourbedroom house for the same price," says Geoff Vedgen of Bairstow Eves. "The schools are surprising good, especially up to age 11, and then the



families move to Crouch End of Muswell Hill."

The area's housing infrastructure is benefiting from gentrification. David Copestake, managing director of David Philips estate agents, believes that "the schools have been improving because the area has been improving. Ten years ago, many properties here were neglected. Now, there are more owner-occupiers and they take better care of their homes. There are no more Ford Cortinas in the front garden."

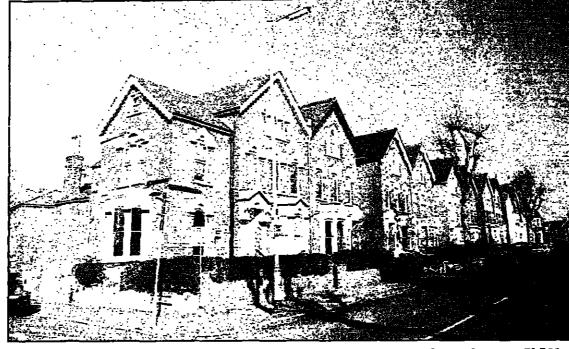
The council estates have also improved - "even Holly Park, which used to have a bad reputation and is now fine," says Mr Copestake. "Holly Park is still mostly council tenants. In other estates, the ratio of council tenants has gone from 90 per cent to 40 per cent. Communal areas are clean, and the blocks well maintained."

Stroud Green has some purposebuilt modern houses and blocks of flats, especially near Manor House, along with an occasional church conversion or other unusual dwelling. In the main, though, period properties

Property hunters shouldn't automatically write off past or current rail lines, Finsbury Park and Alexandra Park used to be connected by a rail line which, now trackless, is Parkland Walk, a nature reserve. It can lend a genuinely rustic ambience to gardens lucky enough to back onto it.

Even the currently active rail line serving Crouch Hill station is benign. It is lightly used, although goods trains also travel the line.





ROBERT LIEBMAN Stroud Green boasts period properties, a nature walk (top) and two large parks nearby

Phil Meech

THE LOW-DOWN

Prices: "Prices have gone up since January," reports James Ballard of Winkworth, "Many properties become available, but there is a rapid turnover." Fivebedroom houses sell for £300,000 tnev need a grea deal of work, when they can go for as little as £175,000.

Properties: Bairstow Eves is currently asking £315,000 for a three-storey corner property with a separate flat on each floor, each vacant. Last winter, a similar house with seven units was on the market. Well used and much abused over the years, these investment properties generally can be converted again into onefamily premises.

Transport: Finsbury Park Station is in Zone 2. The rail line into the city stops at Old Street and

Moorgate. From the bus depot at Finsbury Park station, the W7 proceeds along Stroud Green Road to Crouch End. and the W3 turns onto Stapleton Hall Road and reaches much of Stroud Green turns in the other direction. toward Archway and the Islington part of Stroud Green. Crouch Hill

station is on the little-used but still

Shopping and dining: Crouch End is top-heavy with restaurants. but supermarket shopping means a trek to Green Lanes or the Wood Green shopping centre. Council: Most of Stroud Green is £898. Band D in Islington is £912. A council porkie? The Haringey Guide claims that, in addition to birds, bats, and foxes, Parkland Walk is home to muntjac deer. chugging Barking-Gospel Oak line.

What a relief! Seven external wall panels on a former dairy now adorn a bar/restaurant. "It cost the brewer a fortune, and it's a big crowd puller to the area," says David Copestake. Otherwise, the increasingly derelict building faced an uncertain future. Estate agents: Bairstow Eves. 0181-809 5050; David Philips, 0171-686 7676: Winkworth, 0181-342 9999.

THREE TO VIEW

IN THE MONEY



PENNY COTTAGE in Pleshey, Essex, is about 200 years old but got its name as recently as 1972 when, during renovation, a 19th-century penny was found.

The three-bedroom house has a split personality. From the street it looks like the other period houses in the village, but the addition at the back includes a covered porch and redbrick-based bay window. Grade Il listed, the cottage has an oak stripped floor in the sitting room, refitted 179" kitchen with limed-oak units, Neff oven and hob, and a detached double garage with a stairway to an 18ft office above. Offers around £185,000, details from Trembath Welch (01371 872117).



THIS HALF-timbered period house in The Mint, in Rye, East Sussex, is in the middle of the ancient Cinque Port town. From the panelled oak front door, walk into the 20ft drawing room with a ceiling height of around 8'6", heavy timber framing and an African slate floor.

There is a 20ft dining kitchen with full-height

diamond-leaded doors to the rear terrace and gardens, wine shelves and white tiled surfaces. There are two bedrooms, study (with access to a roof garden) and a bathroom on the first floor, with the main bedroom on the second. Offers around £230,000 to Phillips & Stubbs



THIS STONE cottage in West Bank, Winster, 15 minutes' drive from Matlock in the Peak District, has had considerable renovation work done, but needs finishing off. Formerly two houses, it now has three bedrooms, which has an original open cast-iron hearth, dining room with a white Rayburn, and bathroom with Victorian bath with ball-and-claw feet. There are stone outhouses, a garage and a workshop. £125,000, details from Fidler-Taylor (01629 814040). ROSALIND RUSSELL

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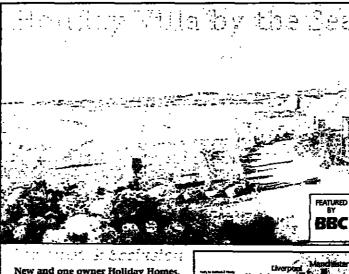
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